

SPECIAL: THE FILM-MASTERS OF HORROR!

K 60c

AUG 1971
47364

NIGHTMARE

A SKYWALD PUBLICATION

TM

A
TALE
SO
UNREAL-
SO
TERROR
FRAUGHT!
BUT
SO
CLOSE
TO
THE
TRUTH!

CREATURE OF THE DEEP!

Bo's
71

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THE
TRUTH!

Boris
71

CREATURE OF THE DEEP!

**THE MAN
WHO BECAME...**

FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER



Boris Karloff as he appears in "The Black Cat" and "Son of Frankenstein.". Each month, Nightmare will take you into the world of the masters of screen terror. You'll learn little known facts about the actors and their films, and see fabulous photos from the collection of Allan Asherman.

**BEHIND THE SCENES
WITH SOME RARE PHOTOS!**

Art by: Harold Shull



CREATURE OF THE DEEP PG 36



THE WEREWOLF PG 14



SLIME WORLD PG 4

NIGHTMARE

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THE MAN...THE MONSTER PG 32



DOOM STAR PG 22



TORTURE CHAMBER PG 60



DEATH RATTLE PG 50

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MY MEMORY OF THE ENTIRE **SOUL-ANNIHILATING** AFFAIR HAS BEEN **ERODED** BY TIME...AND ONLY **RUSHES** UPON ME, FLUSHED, LIKE SOME **GHASTLY** POLLUTED **STREAM-OF-CONSCIOUSNESS**...

MY STRONGEST IMPRESSION OF ALL THE **HORRORS** I ENCOUNTERED WAS WHEN MY NEW BRIDE, **SUSIE**, AND I WERE BROUGHT TO THE **TORTURE GROTTO** OF THE **SEWER-CREATURES** WHO INHABIT THE...

MY GOD, SID! WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH US?!

HANG ON, SUE...WE'LL GET OUT OF THIS--

BUT I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF-- THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS HAPPY-- ONCE--MONTHS AGO--

WELL, MRS. L'SEURMONST, I TRUST YOU FIND THE HOME OF MY ANCESTORS QUAIN?

MR. L'SEURMONST, YOU JEST--PARIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE FOR OUR HONEY-MOON!

REESE

AND NOW...LADEEZ UN GENTLEMEN, A SPECIAL FEATURE OF **LITERARY** NOTE: A QUICK TOUR OF THE FASCINATING **SEWERS** UV PAHRREE!

IS HE KIDDING?

HUSH, SIDNEY!

THEEZ ARE ZE **VERY SEWERZ**, LADEEZ UN GENTLEMEN IN WHICH THE **REVOLUTIONARIES** IN **VICTOR HUGO'S** IMMORTAL NOVEL, "**LES MISERABLES**" TOOK REFUGE...

¿PHEW? THEY MUST HAVE **SMELLED** LIKE THE **HUDSON RIVER!**

SIDNEY!

YES, LADEEZ UN GENTLEMEN, IN THESE **VERY CATACOMBS!**

FOLLOW ME!

HUH?

HEY, SUSAN!

SID! I JUST SAW **ANOTHER** GUIDE GO THAT WAY...HE SAID "**FOLLOW ME**"--

IF WE TIP HIM A DOLLAR HE'LL PROBABLY SHOW US SOME **FASCINATING** SIGHTS AND RECOUNT SOME **WONDERFUL** STORIES ABOUT THE **FRENCH UNDERGROUND!**

I HEAR THERE ARE EVEN WHOLE **COLONIES OF FORTUNE-TELLERS** WHO LIVE IN THESE MUSTY OLD PUBLIC CELLERS!

WELL, OK, KID, IT SEEMS YOUR GUIDE DOESN'T WANT TO TARRY LONG! IN FACT, HE'S 20 PACES **AHEAD OF US...**

HEY! YOU! GUIDE! SLOW DOWN!

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF HE JUST TURNS OUT TO BE SOMEONE TRYING TO SELL US SOME **FRENCH POSTCARDS!**

UH-OH!

WE'RE TRAPPED!

SID! SID! TURN AROUND!

EEEK!

SKREEE-LANG!

THEN I SAW THEM! THEY CAME **LUMBERING** AT US, **VAST, HIDEOUS, OOZING CREATURES OF SLIME!** THEY WERE **REPULSIVE** BEYOND ALL DOUBT--SO WELL DO I **REMEMBER THAT HORRID MOMENT!**--FOREVER ETCHED ON MY **CORRODED BRAIN!**

GOOD LORD! DECREPIT, DECAYING HEAPLIKE MONSTERS! IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

SIDNEY! THIS... SEEMS LIKE A NIGHTMARE!--A PSYCHOTIC'S FEVER-DREAM!



I'LL NEVER FORGET MY SHOCK WHEN ONE OF THE CREATURES SPOKE TO ME--AND IN ENGLISH!

WE WEEEL KEEP YOU HERE ANZ FEED YOU, UNTIL WE DECIDE WHAT WE DO WIZ YOU!--

WHETHER TO LET YOU JOIN US--OR BE PUT TO OTHAIRE USES!

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING!

IN TWO HOURS THEY HAD DISPLAYED MUCH HOSPITALITY.

THEY SERVED A RATHER TASTY MEAL... MAYBE THEY'RE DECENT...

I NOTICE YOU ALL WEAR CLOTHES FROM VARIOUS ERAS IN HISTORY -- WHY?

WE EACH WORE THE CLOTHES WE WORE WHEN WE CAME HERE...

THE FUMES HERE MADE US THIS WAY. AND KEPT US ALIVE HUNDREDS OF YEARS!

AN HOUR OR SO LATER, WE WERE ALONE...

THESE RUSTY AND CORRODED BRACELETS ARE ANCIENT--EASILY BROKEN...

PROVES WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THIS PLACE'S ANTIQUITY!





OH, DARLING...

NO TIME TO TALK, LUV, LET'S SPLIT THIS SLIMY SCENE!



THEY'RE FOLLOWING US!

WE'D BETTER SPLIT UP...

SPLIK
SPLOK
SPLIKSH!
SPLOKSH!
SPLOSH!
SKLIPSH!



DON'T WORRY, SIDNEY, THEY WON'T DO ANYTHING TO ONE OF US TILL THEY CATCH THE OTHER!

SURE HOPE SO....!

THE **RUSE** WAS AT FIRST SUCCESSFUL--I DIVERTED THEIR ATTENTION, AND SOON HEARD THEIR FOOTSTEPS ECHOING DOWN THE **GROTESQUE CORRIDOR** THAT I HAD CHOSEN. BUT IN TIME I ELUDED THEM, AND HEARD THEIR **EERIE ECHOING FOOTSTEPS** SPLASHING DOWN SOME OTHER **MURK-STREWN** PASSAGEWAY...

AT FIRST I THOUGHT I WAS SAFE...UNTIL, IN THE **MAZE OF GUTTERS**, I STUMBLED INTO...

A **GIGANTIC CAVERN!** AND **PEOPLE** KEPT IN **CAGES**--ATTENDED BY THE **SLIME-CREATURES!**

WHAT **STUPID, DENSE, CRASH-POUNDING SOULS** DO THE **DEMENTED MINDLESS CREATURES** POSSESS!

I'VE STUMBLED ON A SOCIETY OF **SADISTIC BRUTES!**



THIS IS
INSIDIOUS!
DIABOLICAL!

THE MONSTER
SLIME-MEN
HOLDING
HEALTHY
PEOPLE IN
CAPTIVITY!

SO THAT'S
WHAT THAT
OGRE MEANT
ABOUT
OTHER
PURPOSES!

MY GUESS IS
THAT THEY USE
MEN AS SOME
SORT OF SLAVE
LABOR FORCE--

WORK THEM
TO DEATH
BEFORE THEY
CAN TURN
TO SLIME
CREATURES, TOO!

I'LL SOON
FIND OUT...

SOFTLY
NOW...

THEY KNOW
THIS SEWER
WELL--I CAN'T
ESCAPE IF
THEY SEE ME
NOW...

GOOD LORD!
A KITCHEN!

TO KEEP THE
POPULATION DOWN
THEY EAT MOST
NORMAL PEOPLE
BEFORE THEY
CAN TURN TO
SLIME-MEN!

CH-CHOKE
GA-
GAAK!

I WAS AT THAT
POINT, I BELIEVE,
THAT I FOREVER
LOST MY MORALS
AND MY SANITY...
AS WELL AS THE
"TASTY" MEAL
THEY HAD
SERVED ME
EARLIER.

AFTER THAT, ALL MY ACTIONS
WERE A CONFUSED, DEMENTED
BLUR... I RAN MADLY THROUGH
THE SEWER CATACOMBS...
INSANE!

I AM IN THE VERY
LAIR OF SAVAGERY...
OF BARBARISM!

MUST GET OUT OF THIS
DEATH WOMB! MUST SEE THE
PURE LIGHT OF DAY!

MUST GET BACK TO
CIVILIZATION--MUST SAVE
SUSIE! MUST... MUST...

THIS DRAIN-
PIPE SEEMS
STURDY ENOUGH
A WEAPON!

S...SOME-
THING'S
COMING...

KLIP PLIK PLOK

PLIK PLOK KLIP

PLOK KLIP PLOK

KLOP PLIK

THERE! ACCURSED FIEND!
CANNIBALIST DEGENERATE!
YOU GOT WHAT YOU
DESERVE!

OOPS! BETTER STOP
YELLING--I'LL ATTRACT
ATTENTION!

SAY...WHAT'S THAT
HE DROPPED...

THEN MOST
OMINENT OF
ALL FIENDISH,
GHOULISH
HIDEOUS
SHOCK OF
SHOCKS! I SAW
IT-- HALF
MUNCHED AWAY
...SAW THE
SLIM, DELICATE,
TAPERING
FINGERS THE
GRACE...
CHARMING
FORM...THE
WEDDING
RING!

OH NO! NO!
NO! SUSIE--
THEY--THEY
CAUGHT
SUSIE!!

WHISSH!
SMACK!

NO! NO!
DIE!

FOUL
MONSTER!

DIE!



YOU SHOULD BE
THANKFUL THAT I
DON'T EAT YOUR
BRAINS...

OH NO! NOW
I FIND MYSELF
EVEN THINKING
OF DEGENERATING
TO THEIR LEVEL!



NOW TO PUT ON ITS
OUTFIT...FROM A DISTANCE,
THEN, THESE CREATURES
MAY NOT RECOGNIZE
ME...I--

I MAY BE ABLE
TO MAKE GOOD
AN ESCAPE!



UH, OH! TWO
MORE OF THOSE
DEMONS AFTER
ME!

I WON'T RISK
FIGHTING TWO
OF THEM...



WHAT LUCK!
A TRAP DOOR!



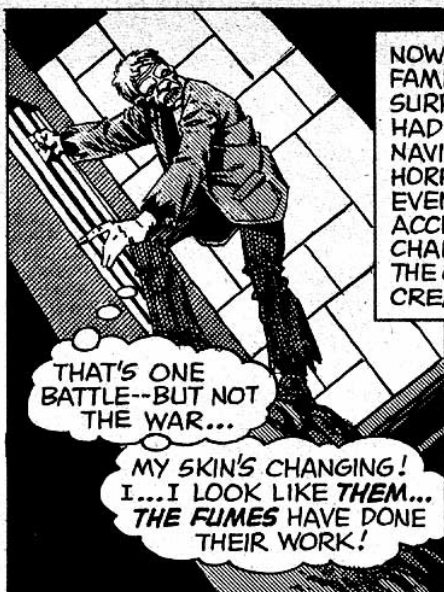
THEN, IN MY APPENDIX-LIKE LAIR, I
HEARD AN OMINOUS ROLLING, RUM-
BLING WEIGHT PLACED ON MY ESCAPE
ROUTE DOOR.



THEY'RE
TRYING TO
SEAL ME IN--
AS WITH A
TOMB!

I'LL ESCAPE!
I'VE GOT TO
ESCAPE!

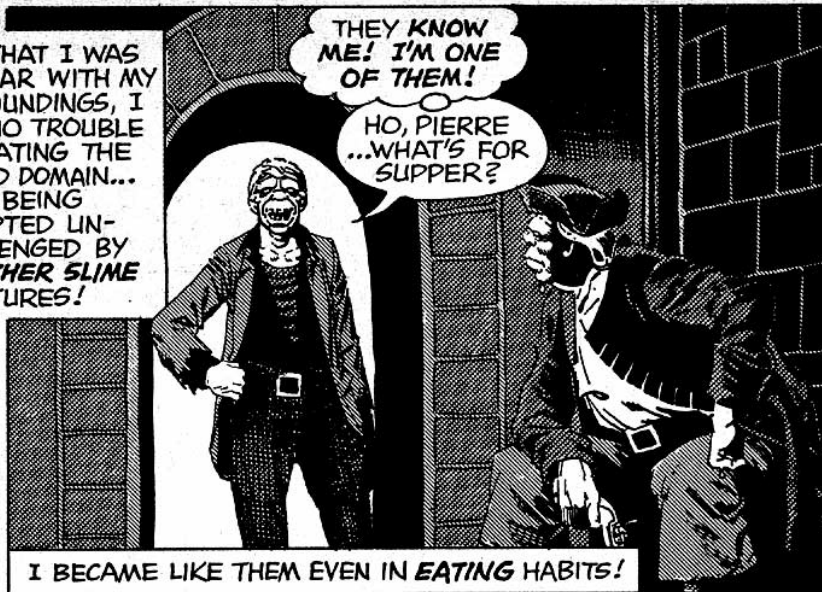
BUT I LAUGHED TOO HASTILY. IT TOOK ME WEEKS OF CRAWLING THRU THE SLIMY MURK, BEFORE I FOUND AN ESCAPE ROUTE TO THE GREATER LABY- RYNTHS!



THAT'S ONE BATTLE--BUT NOT THE WAR...

MY SKIN'S CHANGING! I...I LOOK LIKE THEM... THE FUMES HAVE DONE THEIR WORK!

NOW THAT I WAS FAMILIAR WITH MY SURROUNDINGS, I HAD NO TROUBLE NAVIGATING THE HORRID DOMAIN... EVEN BEING ACCEPTED UN- CHALLENGED BY THE OTHER SLIME CREATURES!



THEY KNOW ME! I'M ONE OF THEM!

HO, PIERRE ...WHAT'S FOR SUPPER?

I BECAME LIKE THEM EVEN IN EATING HABITS!

IN TIME I TOOK TO THE SLIME WORLD WAY OF LIFE...AND DID MY CHORES OF TENDING THE LIVESTOCK!



HEE-YAAH! GET A MOVE ON!

I BECAME ANTAGONISTIC TOWARDS NORMALS! THE SLIME PEOPLE CAME TO BE BEAUTIFUL TO MY EYES.



WELL, ANOTHER ONE FOR THE STEW-POTS!

MONTHS PASSED, AND I WAS FINALLY FULLY TRUSTED BY THE SLIME WORLD SOCIETY...I EVEN TOOK A BRIDE...BUT MY CONSCIENCE BUGGED ME...



I KILLED A MEMBER OF THE SLIME WORLD-- NOW WEAR HIS CLOTHES...

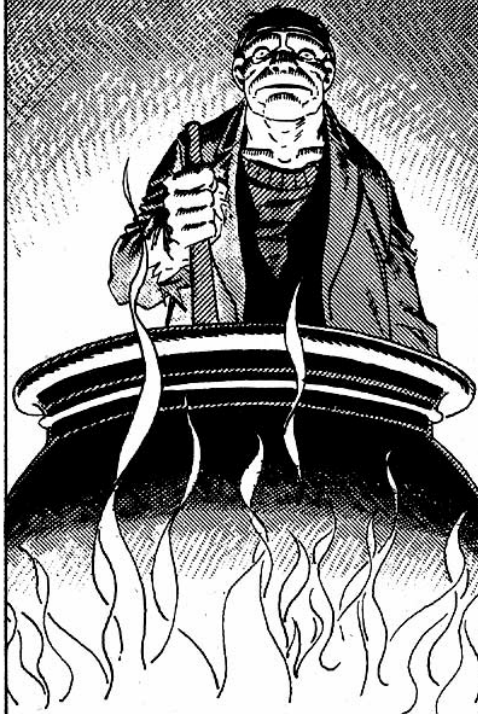
I'M GUILTY OF MURDER ...I MUST MAKE AMENDS...

GHOULISH AS THE SLIME WORLD WAS, IT ACCEPTED ME--MY CHARACTER METAMORPHIZED--MY VALUES CHANGED ...I OFTEN TOOK LONG WALKS THROUGH THE BOWELS OF PARIS--MEDITATING...



NOW AND THEN I LONGED
TO RETURN TO THE SURFACE
-- BUT **SELDOM!**

I'LL NEVER
FIT IN IF I GO
BACK! MY **TASTES**
HAVE CHANGED...



THEN ONE DAY THE EDIFICAL
GATE TO THE **SURFACE**
WORLD WAS HOISTED OPEN
-- FOR **ME!**



MY DAY...
OF TEST!
THE DAY...
THEY **TRUST** ME
TO ACQUIRE
FOOD!

GUILT WELLED WITHIN ME
AS THE EXPERIENCES OF
NEARLY A YEAR BEFORE
CAME TO MY TORTURED MIND!

A
TOUR
PARTY! THE MAN I
KILLED--STOOD
HERE--IN THESE
CLOTHES!



AS COUPLES
NEARBY
AMBLLED AND
DALLIED, I
STOOD--
IMPRISONED
BY **MADNESS**
AND HESITA-
TION--

IT ALL STARTED
SO LONG AGO!
LONG AGO!

THE MAN I
I KILLED SAID
SOMETHING THAT
STARTED IT ALL--
WHAT WAS IT?



SUDDENLY I COULD NOT HELP
MYSELF! THE WORDS OF THE
MAN I'D KILLED VERITABLY
FORCED THEMSELVES UNCON-
TROLLABLY FROM MY **THROAT!**

FOLLOW
ME!



SO THAT'S HOW
IT WORKS--LIKE
A **CURSE!** OH MY GOD!
A **CURSE!**



I SAW MY ERROR TOO LATE--NOW
THEY WERE **INNOCENTLY** FOLLOW-
ING ME... AS I LED THEM TO--TO--
WELL, WE IN THE **SLIME WORLD**
MUST HAVE FOOD
TOO, YOU KNOW... **THE END**

WHENCE STALKED THE WEREWOLF

THE SHRILL SCREAM OF AN ANGRY WOMAN
PIERCED THE CHILLY LONDON AIR! SURVIVAL OF
THE FITTEST WAS THE LAW ON THE SEAMY SIDE
OF THE CITY AND WITH THE THE WOMEN OF THE
NIGHT WERE AT ODDS!



EVENIN' SWEETIE!
WOULD YOU BE
CARING FOR A
SPORTING
TIME ON THIS
FAIR NIGHT?



I'VE WARNED
YOU BEFORE ABOUT
COMING TO MY
TERRITORY, DEARIE.
NEXT TIME I SEE YOU
DOWN HERE, IT'LL BE
THE RIVER FOR
YOU!

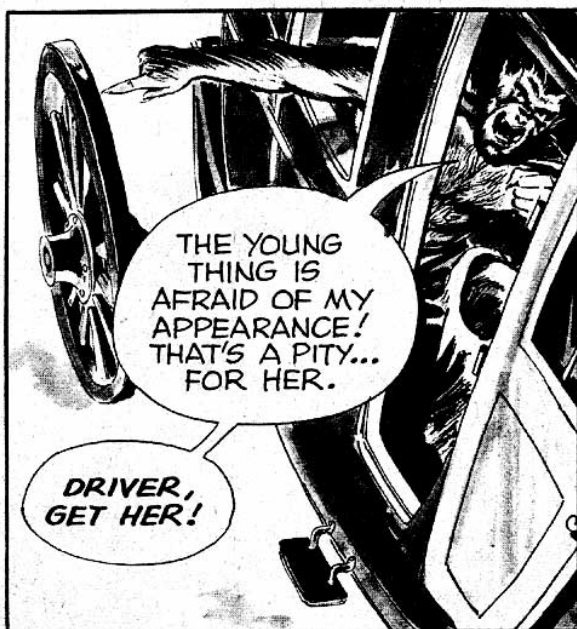
BE OFF WITH
YOU NOW! THAT
CARRIAGE I HEAR
COMING PROBABLY
BELONGS TO ONE
OF ME CUSTOMERS!
AND JUST KEEP A
MIND ON WHAT I
TOLD YOU, DO YOU
HEAR ME?

ALL RIGHT!
ALL RIGHT!
I BLOODY WELL
HEARD YOU!

THERE'S NO RESPONSE FROM THE
RIDER. NOT WISHING TO LOSE A
POTENTIAL CUSTOMER, THE YOUNG
WOMAN LEANS INTO THE CARRIAGE,
DISPLAYING MORE THAN A CASUAL
CHARM.



YOU'RE A
SHY ONE,
CAPTAIN. REALLY,
THERE'S NOTHING
TO BE AFRAID OF!
I JUST...
EEE-YAH!



THE YOUNG
THING IS
AFRAID OF MY
APPEARANCE!
THAT'S A PITY...
FOR HER.

**DRIVER,
GET HER!**



THE FRIGHTENED GIRL FLEES, HER PANIC DRIVES HER INTO A BLIND ALLEY!

NO! NO!
PLEASE! HAVE MERCY,
PLEASE! YAAA-AAHH!



1971! THE OFFICE OF DR. ALLAN BUND, WHOSE STARTLING NEW TECHNIQUES IN PSYCHO-THERAPY HAVE MADE HIM A MOST CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE.

AND I WATCHED TRIUMPHANTLY FROM INSIDE THE CARRIAGE, AS THE HORSE'S **HOOFS** MADE FAST WORK OF THE TRAMP!

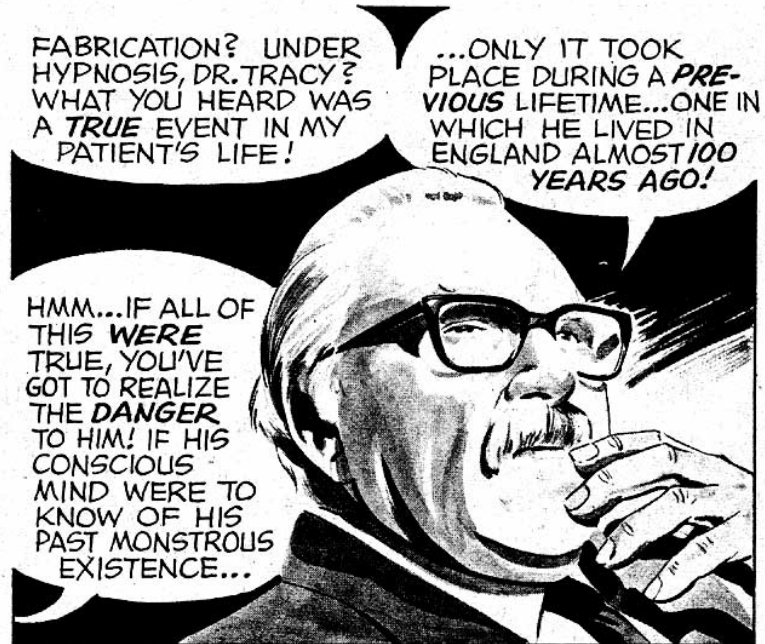


INCREDIBLE STORY, DR. BUND! BUT SURELY IT'S SOME SORT OF **FABRICATION**!

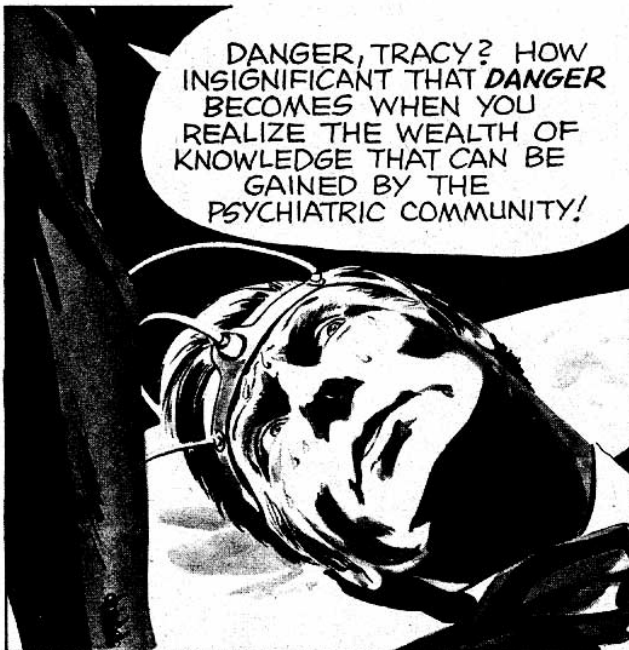
FABRICATION? UNDER HYPNOSIS, DR. TRACY? WHAT YOU HEARD WAS A **TRUE** EVENT IN MY PATIENT'S LIFE!

...ONLY IT TOOK PLACE DURING A **PREVIOUS** LIFETIME...ONE IN WHICH HE LIVED IN ENGLAND ALMOST **100 YEARS** AGO!

HMM...IF ALL OF THIS **WERE** TRUE, YOU'VE GOT TO REALIZE THE **DANGER** TO HIM! IF HIS CONSCIOUS MIND WERE TO KNOW OF HIS PAST MONSTROUS EXISTENCE...



DANGER, TRACY? HOW INSIGNIFICANT THAT **DANGER** BECOMES WHEN YOU REALIZE THE WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE THAT CAN BE GAINED BY THE PSYCHIATRIC COMMUNITY!



TRUE, BUT YOU **CAN'T FORGET** THIS POOR SOUL!



YOU USED TO TELL ME THAT THE INDIVIDUAL BEING WAS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE IN THIS WORLD. NOW, YOU JUST **SCOFF** AT IT!

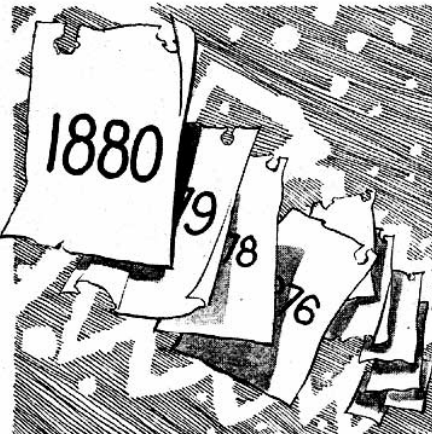
TRACY, MODERN SCIENCE STANDS WHERE IT IS IN 1971 BECAUSE OF SACRIFICES. THERE IS STILL ANOTHER SOUL TO SACRIFICE... SO WHAT!

ALONE WITH HIS SUBJECT, THE DOCTOR TRANSPORTS THE PATIENT BACK TO THE 19TH CENTURY AND LONDON...

...AND ONCE MORE THE SECRETS OF THE PAST ARE UNLOCKED!



EXCUSE ME, TRACY, I MUST GET BACK TO MY WORK. THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO!

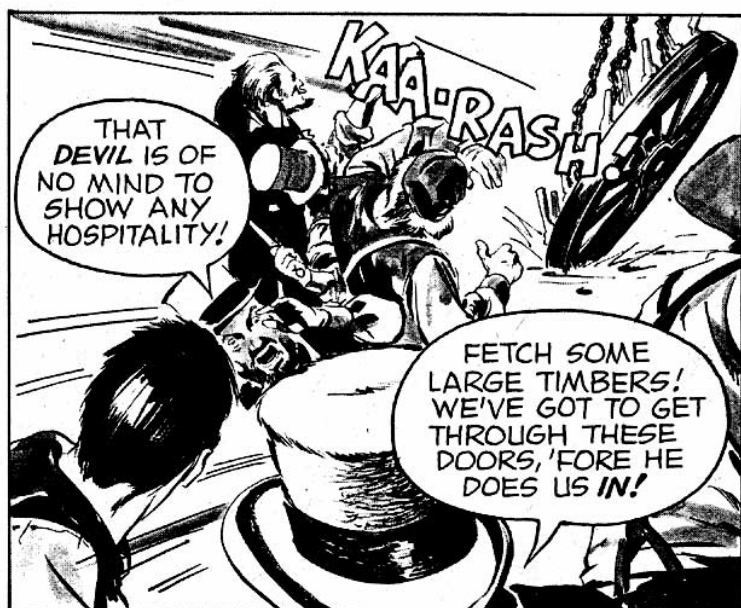


VILLAGERS! THEY'VE TRACED THAT SLUT'S DEATH TO ME!



FIEND! OPEN THESE DOORS! WE'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE UP!

EASY, JONATHAN! WE JUST CAME HERE TO TALK TO THE BLOKE. WE KNOW NOT FOR SURE THAT HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDERS!...ONLY THE HEARSAY OF SOME TRAMP!



THAT DEVIL IS OF NO MIND TO SHOW ANY HOSPITALITY!

FETCH SOME LARGE TIMBERS! WE'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH THESE DOORS, 'FORE HE DOES US IN!

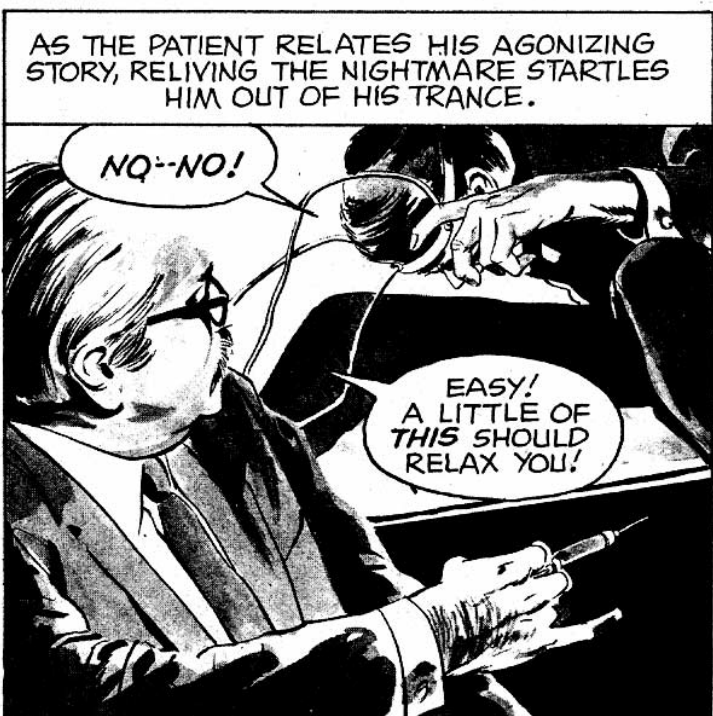


THE ATTACK BY THE CREATURE THROWS THE CITIZENS INTO A RAGE AND INCREASES THEIR DETERMINATION.

HURRY, MAN, 'FORE HE TRIES SOME NEW TRICKS!

WE'LL TEAR DOWN THIS PLACE, BUT WE'LL GET HIM!

AYE, AND SEND HIS SOUL STRAIGHT TO HELL!



AS THE PATIENT RELATES HIS AGONIZING STORY, RELIVING THE NIGHTMARE STARTLES HIM OUT OF HIS TRANCE.

NQ--NO!

EASY! A LITTLE OF THIS SHOULD RELAX YOU!



THE UNWILLING SUBJECT STARTS TO FALL BACK INTO A RESTLESS SLEEP WHEN...







The
END

NIGHTMARE'S NIGHTMAIL

I am an avid admirer of your horror mags and have all issues of *NIGHTMARE* and *PSYCHO* that have so far been put out.

You have gone off to a perfect start in the field of illustrated horror and science-fiction. I have noticed that you have put another story of pollution in *NIGHTMARE* #3. These stories of the deadly pollution problems we have are wonderful! So keep stories like "Beware Small Evils" and "The Pollution Monsters" coming in future issues.

Also my compliments to Sinclair Rich and Sean Todd for a very well written and illustrated story of science-fiction "The Inner Man." "Vault of a Vampire," "When the Dawn Gods War" and "A Rotten Deal" were great also. Chic Stone did a good job on the pin-up and "Soul of a Warlock." *NIGHTMARE* #3 was the best yet! Keep up the good work.

Danny Crosby
Long Beach, N.Y.

Thanks for the kudos, Danny. We feel what's happening today is very important to all of us. Hence, the pollution stories and any other subject matter that happens to hit home.



Glad to see that you're not forgetting the good ol' vampires and werewolves. I must admit that there is never too much of them for me, especially the stories you have because they have such NEW and exciting twists. "Soul of the Warlock" in issue three of *NIGHTMARE* was a great example of what you can do with the ol' vampire. It was a fine story by Al Hewetson and Serg Moren looks like he can do some great stuff. So keep a fan happy and keep those vamps coming.

Steven Trump
Maryland

Vampires and werewolves are just something we won't forget because there are so many fans like you. We try to put out a well balanced book that will make everybody happy. That's why we try to have at least one or two ghoulish stories in every issue. If you keep DRINKING we'll provide the BLOOD.

I just read the latest issue of *NIGHTMARE* #3. In one word: "FANTASTIC." The thing I liked best was the cover. Boris Vallejo is just great. Please keep him and try him on an inside story some time. Thanks for the delightful mag!!!!

Richard Carron
Canada

Glad you like what we're doing, Richard. We feel as you do about Boris (see center write-up), and maybe someday he'll be doing some inside material. Until then, he's going to keep dazzling all of us with his G-R-E-A-T covers.

NIGHTMARE is just great but I'd like to see more pages dedicated to the fans. How about starting a page where Loyal *NIGHTMARE* fans could send in some of their amateur horror stories and art. I think it would make a great feature for your mag and create a lot of interest among the fans.

Phillip Bisco
Buffalo, N.Y.

We've gotten quite a few requests of this kind. As you can see in this issue's Letters page we are saying O.K.—send in your fan art, stories, riddles, puzzles, anything that you would like to submit. For *NIGHTMARE* #7 you're going to see the greatest fan page in all of Horrordom!!!

I have read your *Nightmare* magazine and I personally think it is, if not better, then as good as your competitor magazines!

Sir, I was too late in buying and did not purchase Vol. 1, No. 1, but I do have No. 2. I would like to buy the first issue of *Nightmare*, also the third, plus getting a subscription.

Please inform me of the cost, as it will be a great pleasure dealing with you, I'm sure.

Truman C. Searfoss
Nazareth, Pa.

And it's a pleasure dealing with you Truman. We will be advertising info on back copies in the near future, and will be most happy to oblige you and all our other fans who wish to purchase any.

Looks as if we're right on with a super-star. That photo on the right is non-other than one of the greatest cover artists of all time. His name, of course, is Boris Vallejo. And the reaction to his paintings is just fantastic. We hope to see his covers on our mags for a long, long time to come.

Boris was born in Peru on Jan. 8, 1940. He studied art in Lima, and then worked for McCann-Erickson, (the ad agency) who has a branch office there.

NIGHTMARE #3 proved to me you're on your way to a great mag. The cover was by far the best. "Beware Small Evils" was just about the most hip horror story ever to appear. Keep that Jack Katz going—he's great teamed up with Frank Giacoia, who's just about the best in the business. Phillip Roland is doing great work for you and it would be groovy to keep him going. His story was just too much and the art was just fantastic. The only bad piece of work in your issue was "When Dawn Gods War." The story was weak and so was the art. That's about all. Looking forward to the next ish!

Peter Barrow
Lincoln, Nebraska

That was quite an earful but we were more than happy to listen. Especially since most of it was good. "Beware Small Evils" seems to be shaking up a lot of people and we hope to be doing more of the same in the future.

I can't tell you how much I like your magazine *NIGHTMARE*! I have searched all over town to find your first edition, which will no doubt become even harder to find until it's a rarity, being your very first. And the magazine is so excellent, I can not stand not having a complete collection. So I hereby request one copy of the first edition of *NIGHTMARE*. Enclosed you'll find a

check covering the amount. If this is not enough, send a statement, bill or letter and I will send the rest. This is very important to me, so please do not delay so that I won't worry! Much deserved success in your and the magazine's future!!!

John James
Houston, Texas

We're sorry that you couldn't find NIGHTMARE #1. We have made sure that a great fan like you will receive a copy. We know it will become a classic so we can understand your enthusiasm. Hope you had an easier time finding our recent NIGHTMARES. We're working away at trying to get NIGHTMARE to everyone who can't find it on their newsstands.



BORIS VALLEJO

I want you to know that I can't get near to my refrigerator since I read "Children of the Cold Gods" in *NIGHTMARE* #2. That was a horror tale as solid as they come and too gruesome to talk about even in this letter. Also, Dan Adkins was great working on "Pressed For Time." You weren't kidding with that title were you? Syd Shores did a fine job on "Circle of Circe" though I thought there was a definite lack of tone on the job. The story was a good one by the GREAT Marv Wolfman. Keep him going, he's a great writer.

Michael Kling
Ossining, N.Y.

We regret that you and your refrigerator are no longer friends. We hope you'll be both coming to an understanding soon. "Pressed For Time" was a good one and you can't get many better than Dan. Marv Wolfman is one of our regular script writers so you can look forward to plenty from him in the future.



NIGHTMARE just got themselves a new fan. With *NIGHTMARE* #1 and #2, I still had my doubts but *NIGHTMARE* #3 has sold me. It's a super issue with a cover that's got to be one of the best around. Keep covers like that going and you can't miss. Boris is fantastic! I never heard of him before, but who cares; you're on your way to discover a new Frazetta. I like this guy Rich Buckler. I've seen some of his stuff before in other books and I think he's got great possibilities; his story "The Victims" was a nifty piece of work. Hope you'll keep him going. See if you can get Mike Koluta. I've seen some of his stuff for fan mags and he's great. Signing off now.

Harold Binner
Los Angeles, Calif.

We love new fans, glad to have you aboard. We're proud of *NIGHTMARE* #3, but like the showmen say—you ain't seen nothing yet. Boris' covers have received lots of mail and we're making sure to keep him busy. Rich Buckler was working for the Warren books and is now a regular contributor here.

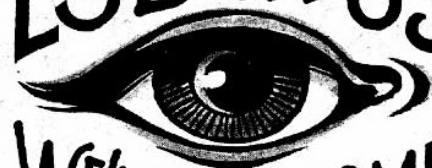


You've been asking and asking! Well, it's coming. A fan page devoted entirely to you!

We've been receiving art, scripts, poems and other imaginative contributions from you fans out there. So keep sending them in and we'll start your fan section as soon as possible!

**Address all mail to:
NIGHTMARE'S NIGHTMAIL
18 EAST 41 STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017**

KEEP YOUR EYE ON US



WE'VE GOT SOME REAL SURPRISES FOR YOU!

'Cause we've been talking and reading and listening to everything you fans have been telling us—and Son-a-Gun, if you haven't come up with some jazzy ideas. In fact, we're going to get one of them going real quick. Seems as if we've gotten quite a few suggestions on the same theme! We've started the ball rolling, so . . .

**NEXT ISSUE
WE'LL LET YOU
IN ON THE . . .**

BIG NEWS!

BEG PARDON

NIGHTMARE June had the cover artist listed as Boris Vallejo on the contents page. It should have read Harry Rosenbaum. "Soul of the Warlock" had Chic Stone listed as the scripter and that one was written by Kevin Pagan.

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IT HAD COME FROM THE FAR REACHES OF THE WESTERN SKIES. MOST MEN IN THE YEAR 1000 A.D. DID NOT KNOW IT WAS ONLY A COMET. TO THE ALL TOO MANY IGNORANT ONES OF THAT **DARK AGE**, IT SEEMED A **SIGN** OF THE END...AND THEY TREMBLED 'NEATH IT... 'NEATH...

THE DOOM STAR!

THE DOOM STAR COMET BLAZED SO FIERCELY THAT IT NIGHTLY DOMINATED THE SKY, AND SEEMED TO HAVE EXTINGUISHED ALL OTHER STARS...

MORE STARS DIED TONIGHT! BY THE DOOM STAR!

SO SHALL WE ALL DIE!

FEAR AND FANATICISM SOON BECLOUDED MEN'S MINDS. THE PEOPLE IN ANGUISH AND PANIC PRAYED AND PUNISHED THEMSELVES, BELIEVING THEY HAD BROUGHT THE **DOOM STAR** TO EARTH BY THEIR EVIL...

WE BESEECH THEE, OH **DOOM STAR** ABANDON US!!

MIDST THIS UNIVERSAL PANIC, A KNIGHT RODE ACROSS FRANCE, CARRYING A DIPLOMATIC MESSAGE...



SUCH SAVAGE MADNESS HAS BEFALLEN ALL MEN!--

HE TARRIED NOT, FOR HE BORE AN URGENT MESSAGE TOWARDS A NORTHERN FRANKISH PRINCIPALITY...



...SO QUICKLY!
EVEN THE MASK OF CIVILIZATION IS FALLING OFF...

HE KNEW THE MESSAGE COULD UNIFY EUROPE BUT THE KNIGHT, BERTHOLD, WAS FILLED WITH GRIM DOUBTS...



WHY DO I RIDE?
SOON THERE WILL BE NO EUROPE TO KEEP TOGETHER...

SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE **DOOM STAR** SACRIFICIAL MURDERS ABOUNDED ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE. IN THE PAST WEEK BERTHOLD HAD PASSED THROUGH ABOUT TEN HAMLETS AND SMALL VILLAGES...



THE SIXTH DEATH I'VE SEEN SINCE YESTERDAY!

ALWAYS THE SAME AWFUL SIGHT...

A CORPSE! AND MOURNERS PUNISHING THEMSELVES...

THEY FIRST MURDER MEN FROM FEAR AND THEN...



AND NOW WHILE THEY'RE OFF LOOKING FOR MORE OF THEIR OWN COUNTRYMEN TO SACRIFICE!

THE FIELDS LAY UN-TENDED...

THEY'LL STARVE THOSE WHO LIVE TO SEE THE WINTER!

EVERYWHERE I GO I SEE FEAR...

PEASANTS' HUTS AND HOVELS KNOCKED TO THE DIRT FROM WHICH THEY'RE BUILT!



EVERYWHERE I LOOK...WHAT?...

MADMEN'S EYES-- GLAZED WITH FEAR AND THE AGONY OF HATRED!



IF ONLY THE MESSAGE WERE NOT SO **CRUCIAL!** I WOULD ACT!

OH, TO PREVENT THESE FORMER MEN OF **GOOD-WILL** FROM **DESTROYING** THEIR OWN FLOCK!

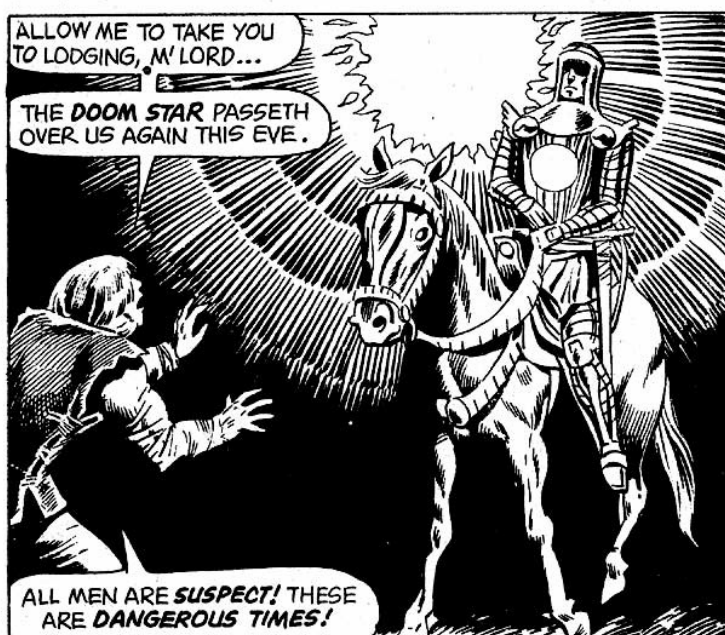
BUT THE ALL-EMBRACING FOUNDATION OF THE PEOPLE'S FAITH WAS NOW WEAKENED BY THE IMMINENT CATASTROPHE! THE KNIGHT SAW BUT LITTLE RHYME OR REASON ABOUT HIS PATH...



WHILE SOME REVEAL AND DESTROY "**HERETICS**"...

OTHERS DESTROY THE "**REVEALERS**"...

THE **DOOM STAR** MUST GLOAT AS IT GLOWS...



ALLOW ME TO TAKE YOU TO LODGING, M' LORD...

THE **DOOM STAR** PASSETH OVER US AGAIN THIS EVE.

ALL MEN ARE **SUSPECT!** THESE ARE **DANGEROUS TIMES!**



EVEN EARTH FALLS FROM **ABOVE!**

STRANGERS TRAVEL AT RISK! PERHAPS YOU CAN SPARE SOME COIN FOR MY AID?

NO! GET AWAY FROM MY HORSE!



COUNTRYMEN! COUNTRYMEN! AN **INTRUDER!**

A **STRANGER!** HIS **WICKEDNESS** HAS BROUGHT THE **DOOM STAR** UPON US!

HELP!
HELP!



HELLPP!

MISERABLE VIPER!

PLOD ON, PLOD ON... **SUDDENLY** THE MONOTONOUS KLIP-KLOP-KLIP OF HOOVES WAS JOINED BY AN AWESOME POUNDING **CRASH!**



TRULY THE
END IS
NEAR!

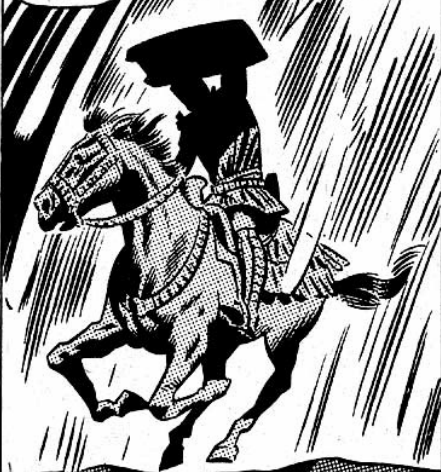
STONES FALL WRATHFULLY
FROM THE HEAVENS!

THE STONE
RAINS
ABATE
QUICKLY...

NO,
ANOTHER
SACRIFICE!

SUDDENLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
ALL TOO LONG, BERTHOLD FELT
DESIRE TO INTERFERE...

ENOUGH! NO MORE
SENSELESS DEATH
THIS DAY!



FOR FEW IN THE YEAR 1000 A.D.
KNEW OF METEOR SHOWERS!...



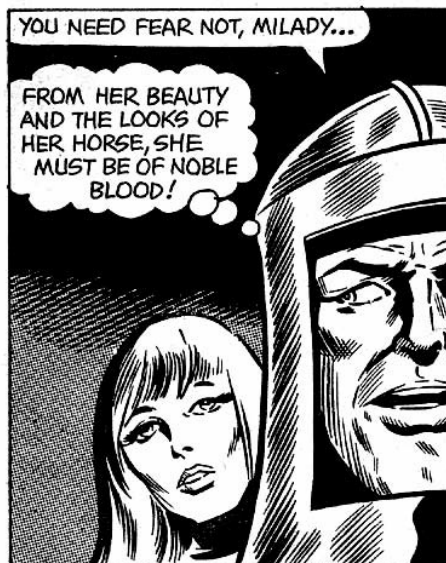
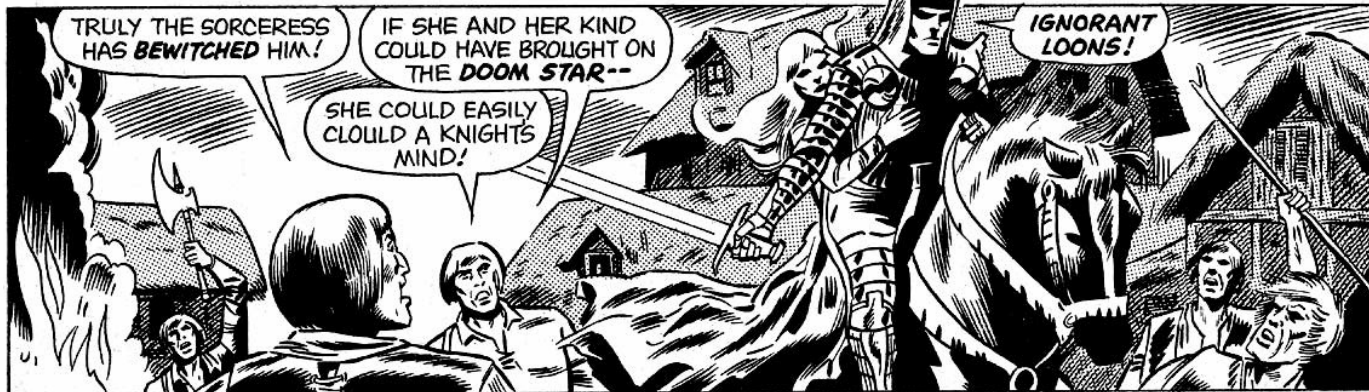
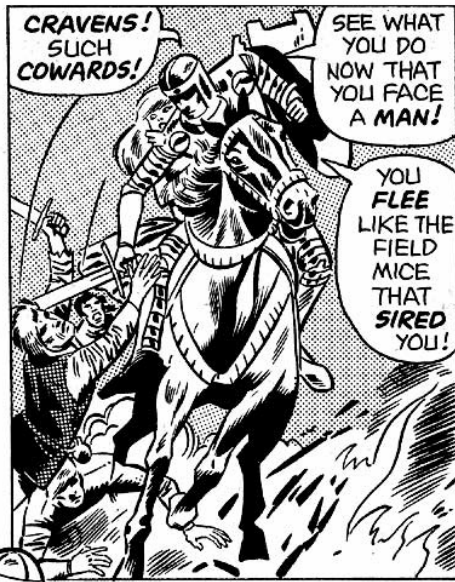
OUT OF MY WAY!--

FREE HER!
LET HER GO!

WHAT SATANIC
MADNESS
INTERVENES?

WHO
IS HE WHO
BLASPHEME?

THE DEMON-
WOMAN HAS
CONJURED HER-
SELF UP
DEFENDER
FATHER!





A NET OF **SERPENTS** TO CATCH
A DIM-MINDED QUARRY!



THE CRUCIAL
DIPLOMATIC
MESSAGE THAT
WOULD UNIFY
CHRISTENDOM
DWARFED AND
DWINDED IN
IMPORTANCE
TO BERTHOLD'S
MIND...
THEN, IN THE
SHADOW OF A
SECOND--



SO ENSUED A STRUGGLE BETWEEN **MINDS** RATHER THAN SWORDS AND LANCES. MIDST **LIGHTNING** AND **FIREBOATS** SCREECHING WINDS OF FAR FORTUNE. **HAUNTING** VISIONS OF WHISPY COBWEB FINGERS TOUCHING HIS **FEAR** NUMBERED **MIND** BERTHOLD MET HIS ADVERSARY.



SUDDENLY FREED NOT ONLY OF HIS MOUNT BUT SEEMINGLY OF **REALITY** ITSELF THE KNIGHT HEARD HIS "HOBGOBLINS" IMPLORE HIM...

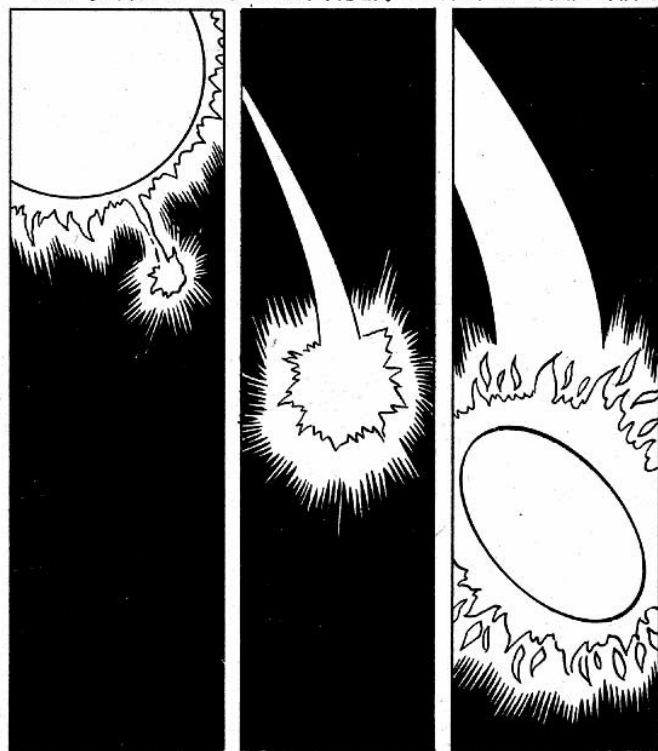
HIGH ABOVE THE GHOSTLY GLOWING BATTLE, A POINT OF LIGHT BROKE AWAY FROM THE **DOOM STAR** COMET-- AND SEEMED TO GROW **LARGER** AS IT SPED EARTHWARD...



FREE YOUR MIND TO JOIN OUR MINDS, BRAVE KNIGHT!

LET YOUR FEAR WASH AWAY...

...AND PREPARE TO WITNESS **WONDERS** UNKNOWN ON YOUR **TINY** WORLD!



YOU WILL SEE THINGS NOW AS THEY **TRULY** ARE...NOT AS THEY APPEAR TO YOUR TROUBLED **HUMAN** MIND!

WE ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF A NEIGHBORING **SOLAR SYSTEM** RAGNOR, CLORIC AND MYSELF... GORTOO!

WHAT MAGIC IS THIS?

WHAT OF THE **GIRL**?

THERE **WAS** NO GIRL! WE MADE YOU SEE HER... TO BRING YOU!

YOU CALL US **GOBLINS** AND TREAT US AS BADLY AS THE OTHER **NON-HUMAN** INHABITANTS OF YOUR EARTH, THIS IS REGRETABLE!

WE CAME TO EARTH TO **BEFRIEND** YOU AND EVERYWHERE WE FIND **BESTIALITY, INSANITY** AND **IGNORANCE!**

HERE YOU USE **OUR** KIND OF ANIMALS AS **FOOD!**... OR AS **TARGETS** FOR YOUR **BLOOD SPORT!**

IN OUR GALACTIC SYSTEM **ALL** CREATURES LIVE **TOGETHER** IN **TOLERANCE** AND **LOVE!**

WE THOUGHT THAT IN YOU WE HAD FOUND **ONE** WORTHY HUMAN BUT WHEN YOU REFUSED TO **RELEASE** THE GIRL...WE FOUND YOU **DECEIVE** EVEN YOUR OWN KIND!

ALL HUMANS ARE DESTROYERS! ALL A **MONSTROUS** PEOPLE WHO **RUIN** AND **POLLUTE** THEIR OWN **NATURAL** ENVIRONMENT!

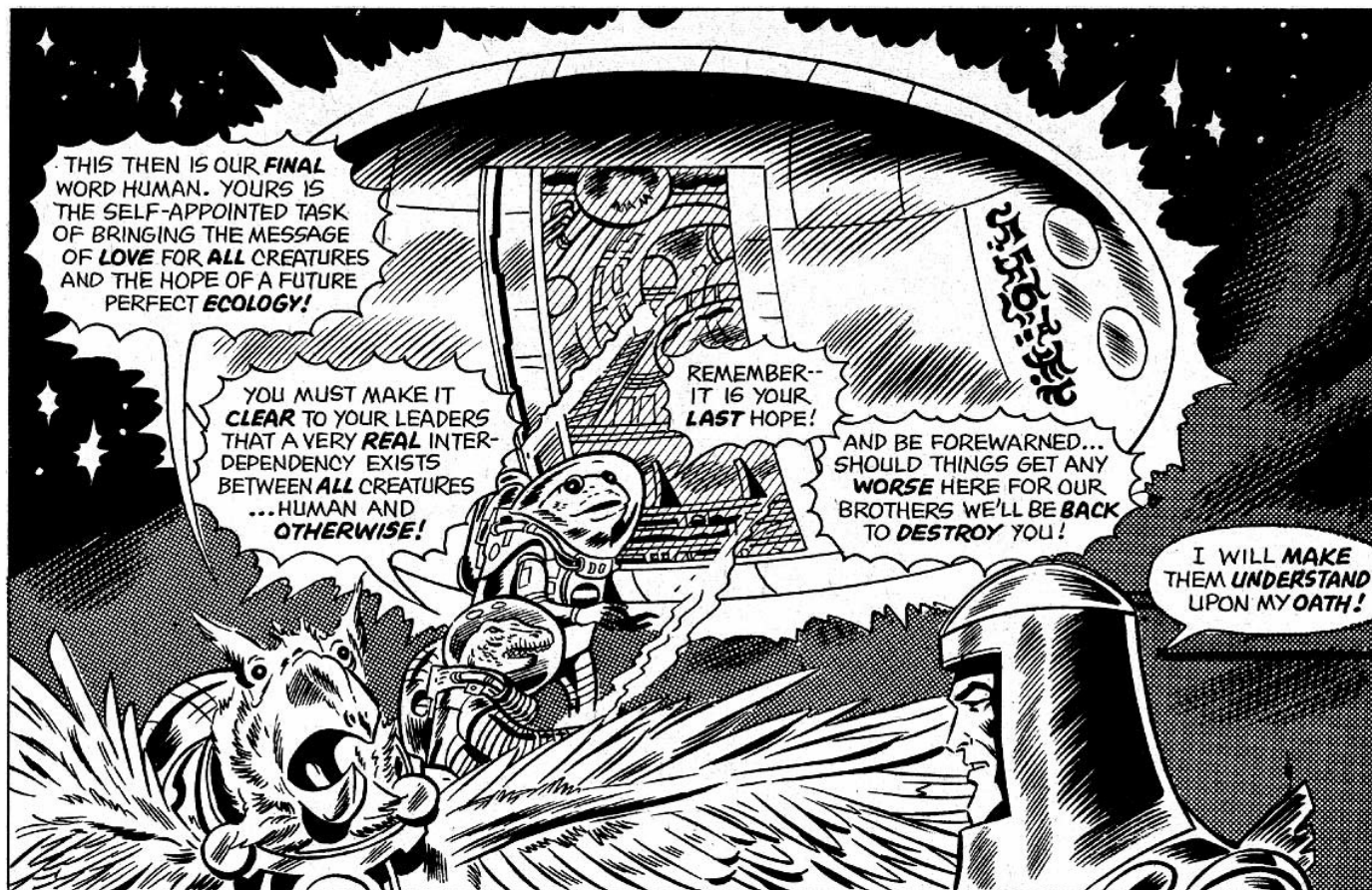
THERE IS NO **PLACE** FOR YOUR KIND AMONG THE CREATURES OF THE **GALAXY!**

YOU HAVE MADE ME **SEE!**

THE **WONDER** AND **BEAUTY** OF YOUR WORLDS...THE **LOVE** THAT **UNITES** YOU MUST HAVE A PLACE ON **EARTH, TOO!**

WHEN EARTH SOLVES ITS **ECOLOGICAL** PROBLEMS WE MAY RETURN AND **SHARE** OUR **WONDERS...**

YOU MUST BE **PATIENT** WITH US... **WAIT** FOR US!



THIS THEN IS OUR **FINAL** WORD HUMAN. YOURS IS THE SELF-APPOINTED TASK OF BRINGING THE MESSAGE OF **LOVE** FOR **ALL** CREATURES AND THE HOPE OF A FUTURE PERFECT **ECOLOGY!**

YOU MUST MAKE IT **CLEAR** TO YOUR LEADERS THAT A VERY **REAL** INTER-DEPENDENCY EXISTS BETWEEN **ALL** CREATURES ...HUMAN AND **OTHERWISE!**

REMEMBER-- IT IS YOUR **LAST** HOPE!

AND BE FOREWARNED... SHOULD THINGS GET ANY **WORSE** HERE FOR OUR BROTHERS WE'LL BE **BACK** TO **DESTROY** YOU!

I WILL MAKE THEM **UNDERSTAND** UPON MY OATH!



I **MUST** MAKE THEM BELIEVE ME!



WE MUST **ALL** LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER... YOU **TOO**, OLD HESPAR, MY FAITHFUL...

ALL OF US TOGETHER, EVERY... MAN...

THOK!



THOK!
THOK!
THOK!
THOK!
THOK!

A FAT **PURSE** SUCH TROUBLED TIMES!



THE **DOOM STAR** IS GONE...

OUR FUTURE IS INDEED **ASSURED!**

INDEED IT IS...
THE END!



The Frankenstein monster.

GREAT MEN OF THE HORROR FILMS

by Allan Asherman

Every month in this part of the magazine, Allan Asherman will be taking you into the world of the horror film. He'll have many interesting things to tell you about the great horror movies, and the artists who make them the masterpieces they are.

There is one actor whose career started in silent films, and lasted until a year ago. He was in serials, television series, stage plays and probably more horror films than anyone else ever was. Because of all he did for the horror film, and because of the wonderful man and artist he was, I am starting my series by telling you about Boris Karloff.

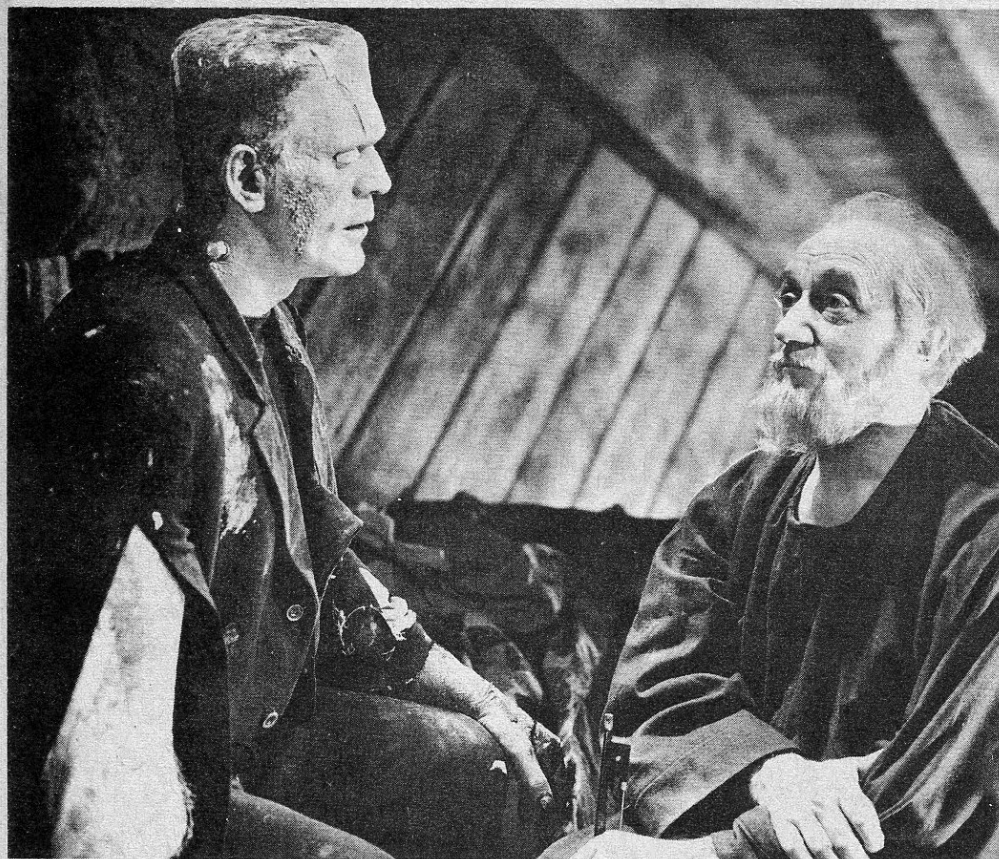
William Henry Pratt was born on November 23, 1887 in London, England. His family was not average; his father was a British diplomat who usually worked in India. William was not to be average either. He would become an actor, and decide the name "Pratt" was not exciting enough for an actor. William Pratt would then remember the name of his mother's family . . . Karloff . . . and change his legal name to Boris Karloff.

Young William was sent to some of the finest schools in London, for it was planned that, like his father, he would become a diplomat. He completed his early education, and enrolled at London University. There, William learned many ways of thinking and reached one conclusion. He did not wish to be a diplomat.

His will to learn kept him in school, and after his graduation he went to Canada. He did not know exactly what he wanted, and so he worked at many jobs. He drove trucks, did construction work and at times any sort of heavy work that he could get.

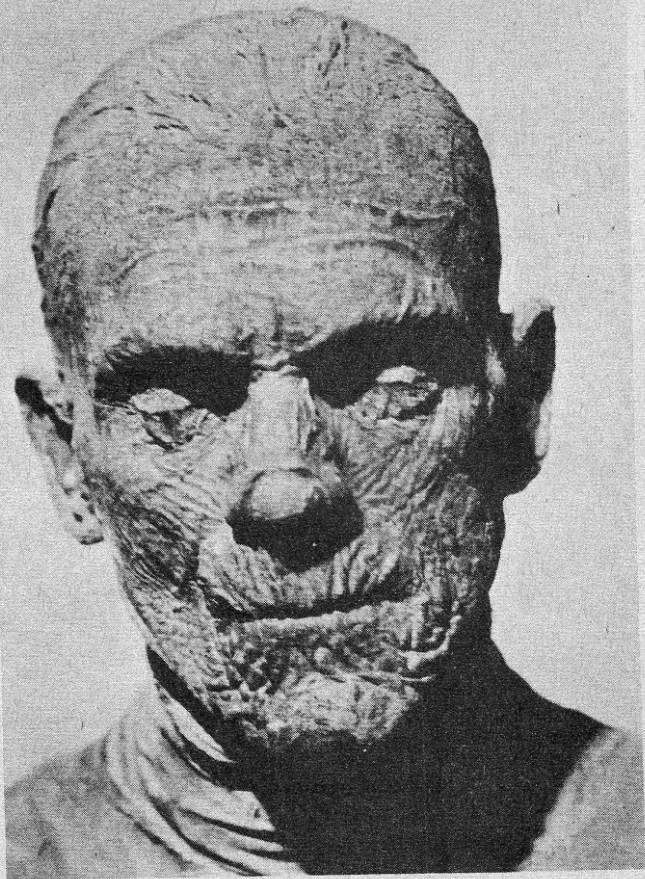
Then, in 1910, he became an actor, performing with traveling companies in all sorts of plays. He wished to learn everything he could about acting, and so he took all the parts offered to him, no matter what sort of personality they needed. Gradually he learned to act roles that were good and bad, handsome and ugly. He became a good stage actor.

BORIS KARLOFF



The monster befriends a blind hermit in the "Bride of Frankenstein".

A rare close-up of Karloff as the mummified IM-HO-TEP in "The Mummy".



The Frankenstein monster and the little girl he befriended. In the film, the girl taught the monster how to make flowers float in the water. The monster then threw the girl in, thinking she'd float.



Karloff as the dying Edward Morlant in "The Ghouls". With him is Ernest Thesiger, who, two years later, was Dr. Pretorius in "Bride of Frankenstein".

It was about this time that William changed his name to Boris (he picked the name Boris for no special reason, except that it sounded good with "Karloff"), and joined a travelling company of actors. Unfortunately they did not do well, but they did something important for Karloff. They decided to drift their separate ways, and Karloff decided to stay in the last city they had played. It was a city named Hollywood, a city that was growing because of a new thing called the motion-picture.

Karloff became a "bit" performer, acting any roles he could get no matter how small they were. His first role, it is thought, was a short one. He played a spy in a Douglas Fairbanks film called "His Majesty, The American," in 1919.

His roles began to get bigger, until he was no longer playing parts that lasted only for seconds on screen. He began to act as villains, henchmen, criminals, weird looking characters; mostly villains, though.

From 1919 to 1930, Karloff acted in over fifty films. Each of his roles led to someone else in the business noticing him, but he had not yet become a star. In 1931, something special happened at Universal Pictures.

Universal had released "Dracula," with Bela Lugosi in the title role. It was an instant hit, and the studio decided to make more of this sort of film. Their next project was "Frankenstein." Originally



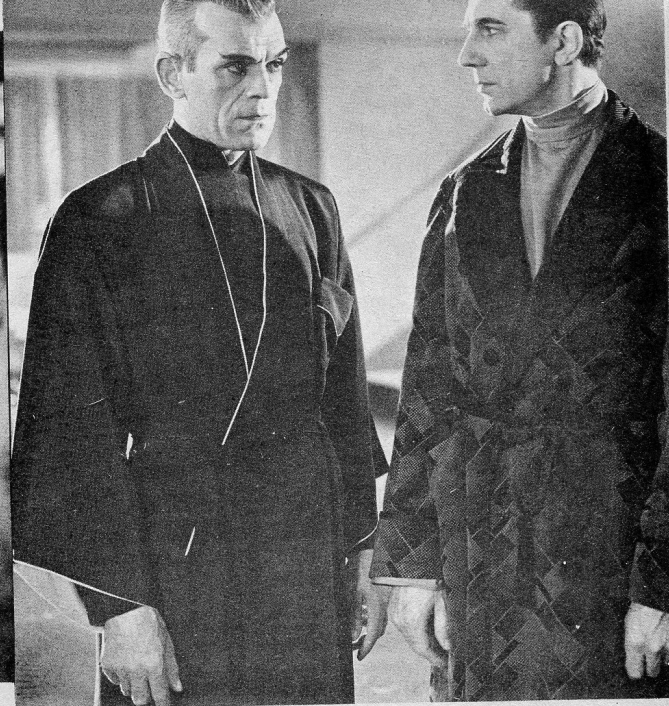
Egyptian High Priest IM-HO-TEP, in 1932's "The Mummy", directed by Karl Freund.



As a supernatural murderer in "The Ghoul", an extremely rare British film of 1933.



Karloff and Lugosi in "The Black Cat"



Karloff as Janos Rukh, is out to kill Lugosi in "The Sensible Ray" (1936)



Boris with Gloria Stuart in a scene from "The Old Dark House"

BORIS KARLOFF!

Carl Laemmle, head of Universal, wanted Lugosi for the role of the monster created by young Henry Frankenstein. But Lugosi knew how important his voice was to his acting, and when he saw he was cast in the role of a monstrosity who did no speaking at all, he decided against doing the film.

No one knows the true story of how Karloff was chosen for the role of Frankenstein's Monster, but there are several versions of what supposedly happened.

Bela Lugosi once said that after he decided not to do the role, Universal still needed someone to play the monster, and would only let him out of the picture if he found someone to replace him in the role he turned down. According to Lugosi, he visited all the casting departments in town until he finally saw Karloff, realized he could do a fantastic job with the role, and recommended him to Carl Laemmle.

Laemmle had a different story. According to him, Lugosi had nothing to do with the discovery. Carl Laemmle once stated he discovered Karloff after Lugosi announced he would not act the role. Walking around the studio, Laemmle said he found Karloff reading a script, and was immediately drawn by the actor's sad expression and expres-

GREAT MEN OF THE HORROR FILMS!

sive eyes. These qualities, Laemmle said, are what made him sure that Boris Karloff was the man to play the Frankenstein Monster.

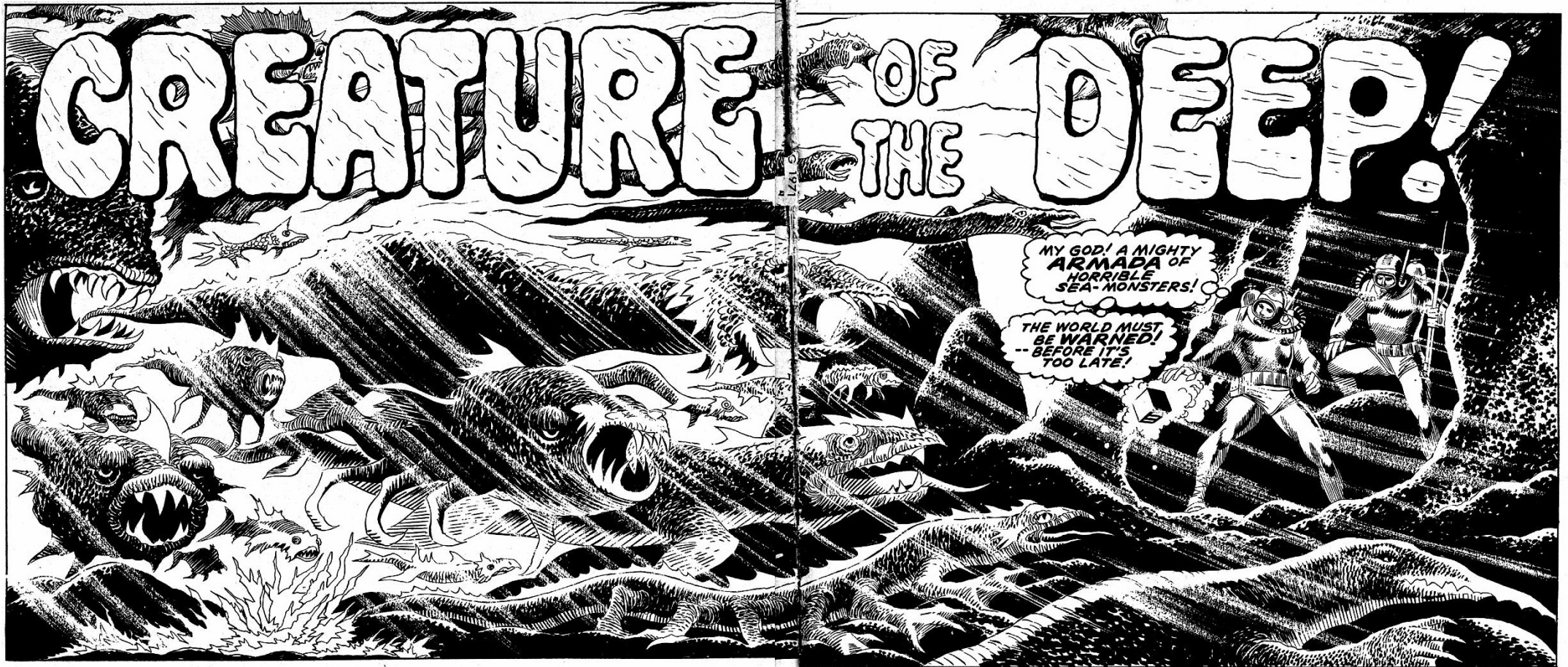
James Whale, the director of "Frankenstein," was supposed to have been looking for the man to play the monster when he saw Karloff eating in the Universal Commissary. He noticed the bony appearance of Karloff, and his graceful way of moving. These, plus later talks with Karloff, followed by screen tests, convinced Whale that Karloff was right for the role of the monster.

Karloff was too much of a gentleman to disprove any of these stories, and so we will really never know the true version.

In our next series on Boris Karloff, you'll hear about "Frankenstein," "The Old Dark House," "The Mummy" and the other early horror films Karloff did for Universal, Warner Brothers and other studios. You'll see photos of Karloff in his greatest early horror make-ups, and a series of pictures showing Karloff over a period of years, and see another spectacular piece of artwork originally drawn for this magazine by one of the leading artists of today. ●



Photo Credits: Universal Pictures / Steven & Erwin Vertlieb



MY GOD! A MIGHTY
ARMADA OF
HORRIBLE
SEA-MONSTERS!

THE WORLD MUST
BE WARNED!
-- BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE!



IT WAS A HAZY SAN FRANCISCO NOON, IN JUNE, 1978 AND BY SOME MIRACLE, QUITE A FEW SEAGULLS EVEN CAME OUT OF HIDING TO WATCH THE SPECTACLE...

WHY DID YOU CALL THIS PRESS CONFERENCE, PROF. DANIELS? BECAUSE I JUST BOUGHT STOCK IN A FLASH-CUBE COMPANY, GENTLEMEN!



A POLITE CHUCKLE RAN THRU THE CROWD OF NEWSMEN... THERE WASN'T MUCH TO LAUGH AT THESE DAYS -- ANY JOKE SEEMED FUNNY...



AS YOU KNOW, I'VE JUST RECEIVED A MILLION-DOLLAR GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT--

TO STUDY THE TASK OF SAVING THE WATER OF THE WORLD!



A MILLION DOLLARS IS JUST A CHEH-HEH) DROP IN THE OCEAN!

ARE YOU, THE MOST FAMOUS MARINE BIOLOGIST TAKING THE 2ND MOST FAMOUS ONE WITH YOU?



I'M AFRAID OLD "NUMBER ONE" WILL HAVE TO GO-IT-ALONE, THIS TIME--

EILEEN IS ABOUT TO BRING THE THIRD GREATEST MARINE BIOLOGIST INTO THE WORLD QUITE SOON.

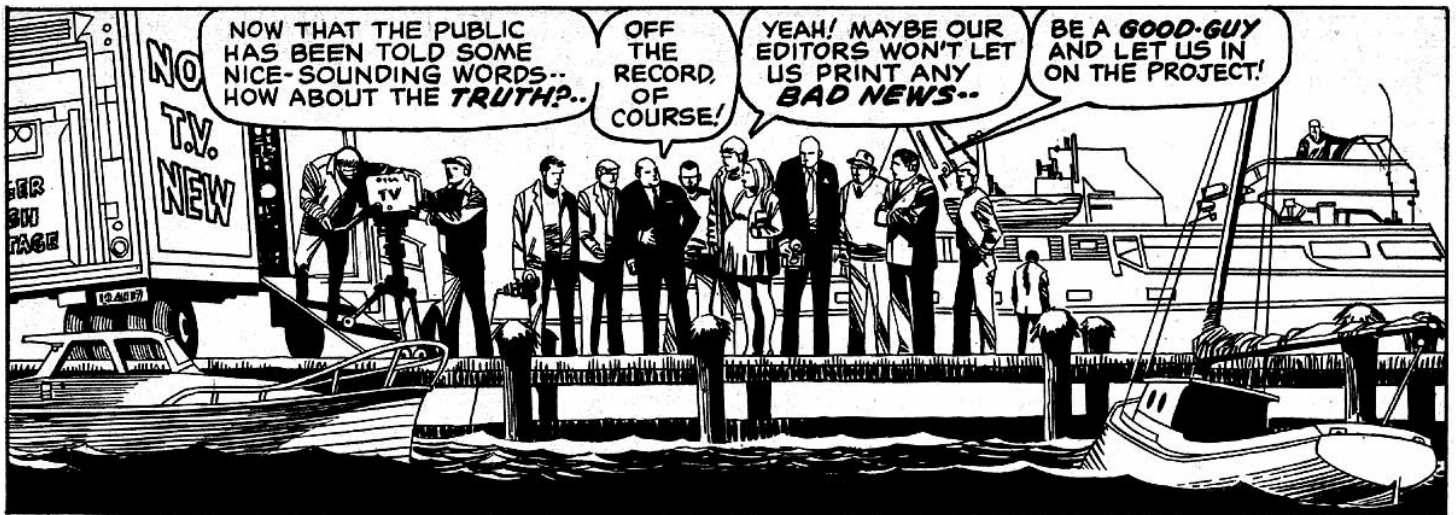


TWO MINUTES OF COSTLY NETWORK TIME WAS ABOUT OVER-- THE ANNOUNCER HAD TO QUICKLY WRAP IT UP...

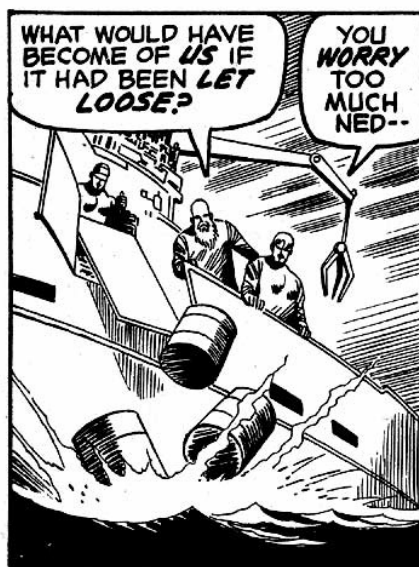
--THERE'S ANOTHER HUMAN INTEREST STORY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--

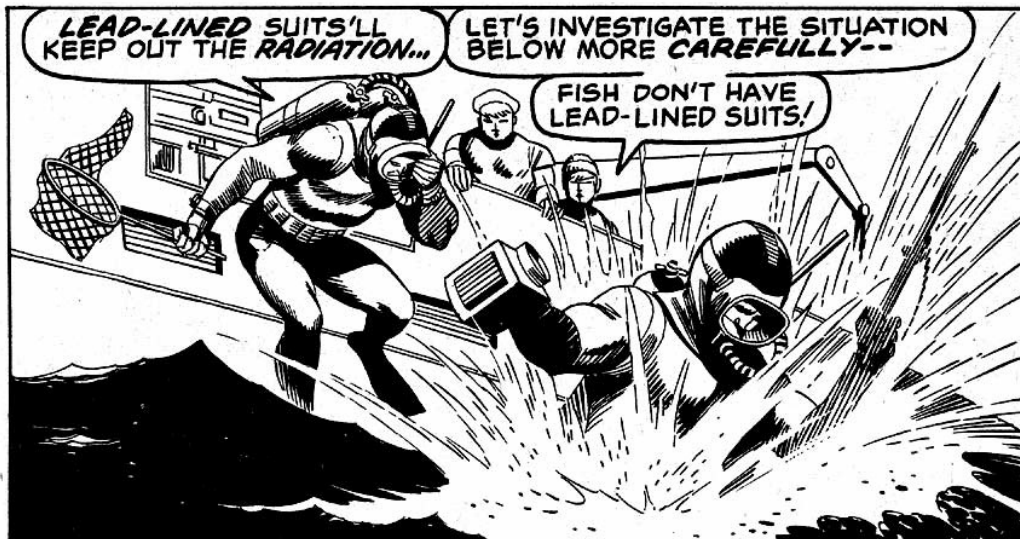
AS ONE LIFE IS ABOUT TO BE BORN A MAN SETS OUT TO SAVE THE WATERS OF A WORLD DYING OF POLLUTION! NOW BACK TO--







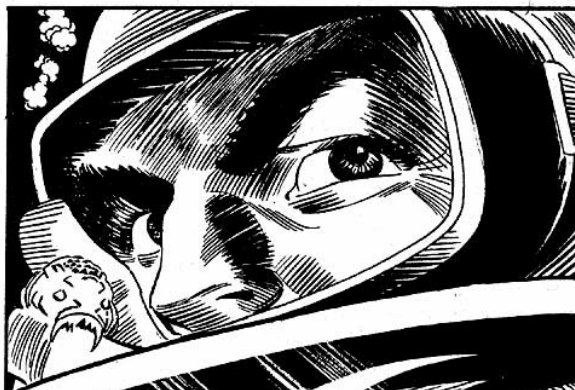




THE TWO EERIE DIVERS SWIM THRU RADIOACTIVE, OIL-POLLUTED **MURK**-- THEIR FLASHLIGHT SWEEPS ACROSS A STRANGE LIFE-FORM-- THAT DIDN'T **EXIST** A FEW DAYS BEFORE.

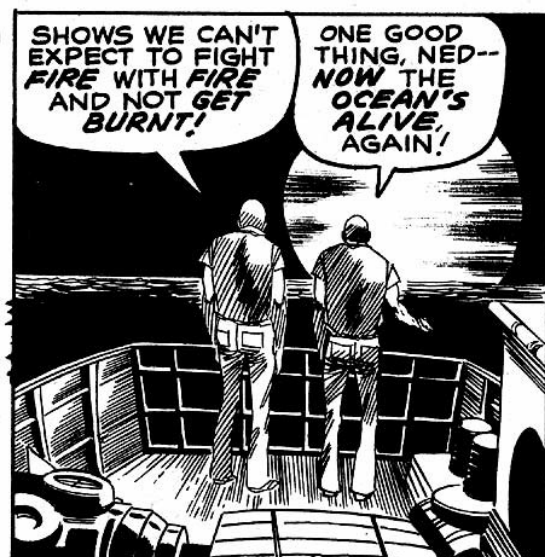
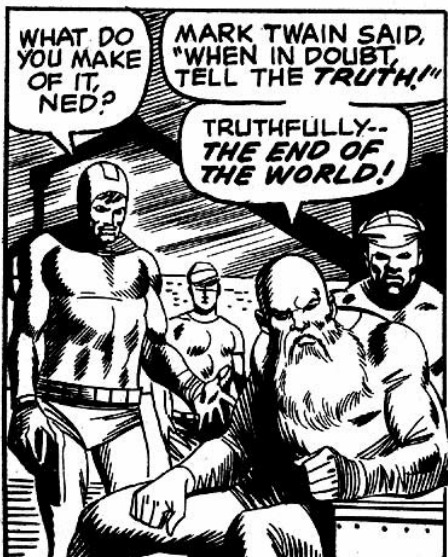


GOOD LORD! AN UGLY, DEFORMED **MINNOW**! OBVIOUSLY A **MUTANT STRAIN**!





ABOVE THEM UNFURLED A **BLACK AWNING OF DOOM--** SCHOOL UPON SCHOOL OF **GIGANTIC MUTATED SEA-CREATURES!--** WEAVING, WAFING, WRIGGLING, WRITHING WOZZILY... **MONSTERS MUTATED!--** SPAWNED OF SMALLER MUTATIONS, DEVELOPED RAPIDLY FROM **RADIOACTIVE PROTOPLASM!**



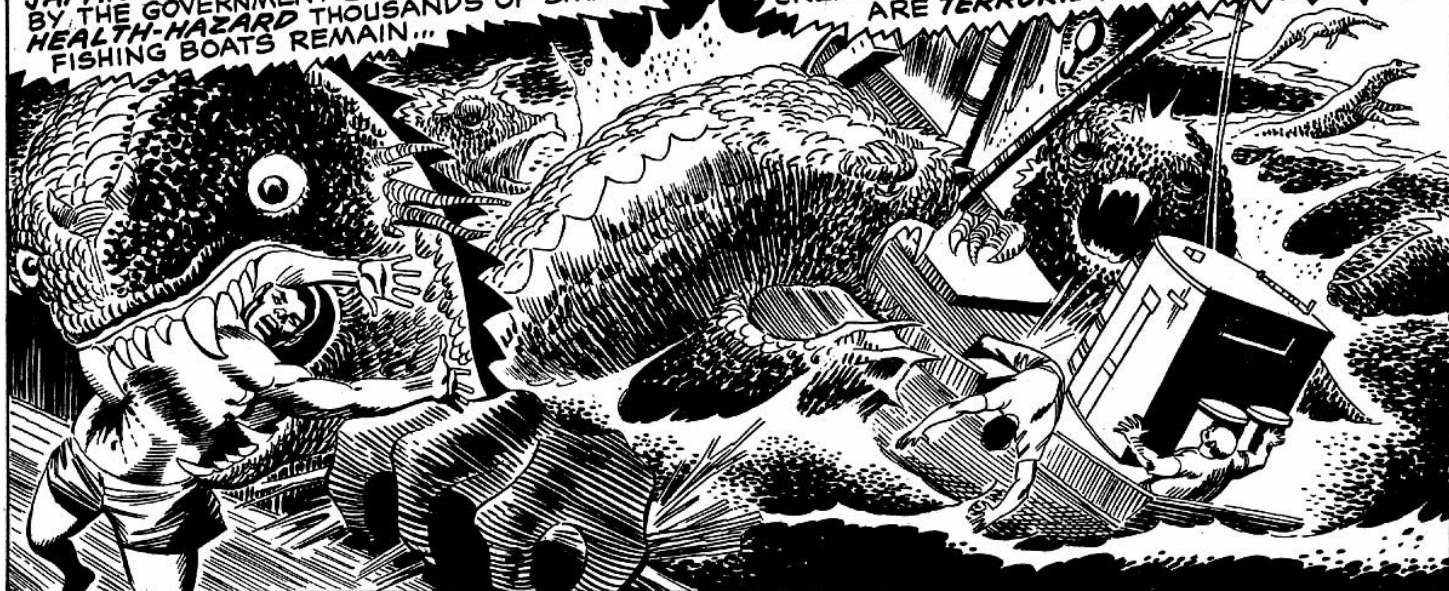
THE TWO MARINE BIOLOGISTS PREPARED TO RETURN HOME. THEY TUNED IN THEIR SHIP'S RADIO--

“BZZZT! -- CRACKLE!” GENTLEMEN, I'M ABOARD THE NAVY JETS NOW! NEVER BEFORE HAS THIS REPORTER SEEN THE LIKES OF THESE CREATURES! THE ROAR OF THE MISSILES THE JETS ARE LOBBING AT THEM IS DEAFENING!

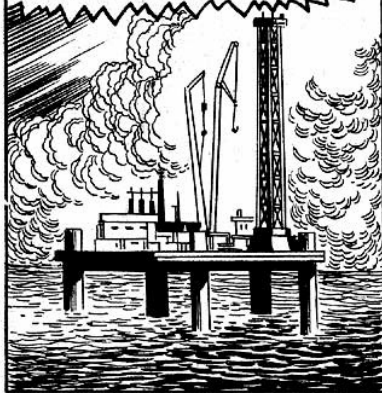


FLASH! SPECIAL BULLETIN FROM TOKYO, JAPAN! ALTHOUGH FISHING WAS OUTLAWED BY THE GOVERNMENT 3 YEARS AGO AS A HEALTH-HAZARD THOUSANDS OF SMALL FISHING BOATS REMAIN...

WITH AN ALMOST GHOULISH SENSE OF SELF-AWARENESS, HUNDREDS OF THE SEA MONSTERS ARE ATTACKING AND PULVERIZING THE BOATS! SOME OF THE CREATURES HAVE CRAWLED ON LAND AND ARE TERRORIZING THE POPULATION!



WE'VE JUST RECEIVED A DISTRESS SIGNAL FROM AWF-SURE OIL CO.'S RIGGING BASE OFF SANTA BARBARA!--



THE SEA MONSTERS ARE ATTACKING THE COMPANY'S DRILLING STATIONS-- THE WORKERS ARE BEING DEVoured ALIVE BY NATURE'S OWN MONSTERS!



REPORTS OF SIGHTINGS CONTINUE TO TRICKLE IN--! AS FAR SOUTH AS TIJUANA, MEXICO, RAMPAGING SEA MONSTERS ARE SPREADING CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION!



THUS FAR, ALL THE SIGHTINGS HAVE BEEN IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN-- MOSTLY ALONG THE CALIFORNIA COASTLINE--



FROM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, WE'VE JUST RECEIVED A BULLETIN!-- A WAVE OF THE MONSTERS HAS JUST BEGUN TO ATTACK THE FAMOUS FISHERMAN'S WHARF AREA--



--ANOTHER REPORT JUST IN FROM STATION K5AN-- SOME CREATURES HAVE ARRIVED AT DOWN-TOWN SAN FRANCISCO!-- BEING OUT OF THE WATER DOES NOT--REPEAT-- DOES NOT AFFECT THEM! THE NATIONAL GUARD IS NOW ENGAGED IN A PITCHED, HEATED BATTLE WITH THE MONSTERS!







THERE THEY GO! -- STREAKING ACROSS THE SKY ABOVE US-- DOOM ANGELS!

THE PRESI--
(CRACKLE)
(SPUTTER)
BZZZZZZZZZ--

OH NO! THE RADIO JUST CAN'T PICK UP SIGNALS-- THE RADIOACTIVITY IS JAMMING THE AIR-WAVES!



WHEW! A CLOSE SHAVE! THAT RUSSIAN SUB SAVED US WITH A NIFTY TORPEDO!

A RUSSIAN SUBMARINE-- THIS CRISIS AT LEAST IS UNIFYING OLD ENEMIES!

THANKS, IVAN!

YA COMRADE!



WE'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE SHORE SOMEWHERE.

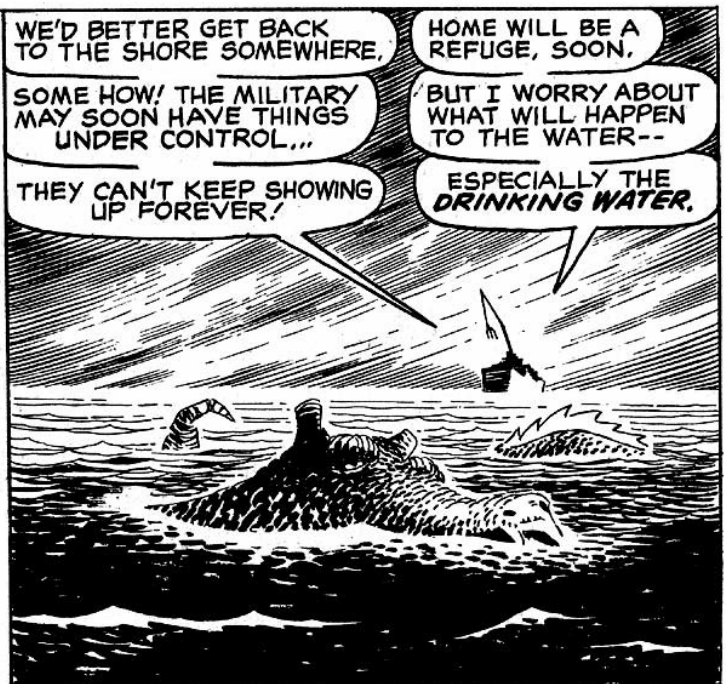
HOME WILL BE A REFUGE, SOON.

SOME HOW! THE MILITARY MAY SOON HAVE THINGS UNDER CONTROL...

BUT I WORRY ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE WATER--

THEY CAN'T KEEP SHOWING UP FOREVER!

ESPECIALLY THE DRINKING WATER.



EPILOGUE:

TWO WEEKS AGO, PROF. DANIELS YOU SET OUT TO CURE THE OCEANS -- IS THERE ANY SIGN OF PROGRESS?

YES, ALL THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD HAVE TEAMED TOGETHER AND WE'RE CONFIDENT!



THERE YOU HAVE IT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- A WORLD-REKOWNED MARINE BIOLOGIST HAS GIVEN HIS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TO THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD-- GOOD EVENING!



OK-- WE'RE OFF THE AIR NOW.

TELL ME, HOWARD, ARE THINGS ANY BETTER AT ALL?

NO-- THEY'RE REALLY WORSE! -- BUT THE COUNTRY PAYS ME TO TELL SOOTHING LIES...



"MOST OFFICIALS OF ALL THE WORLD GOVERNMENTS AGREE THAT THE SITUATION IS TERRIBLY GRIM! -- ALL THEY MANAGED TO DO WAS KILL OFF THE FIRST BATCH OF MUTANT SEA-CREATURES! THEY HAVEN'T SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF THE WATER!-- ANOTHER ARMADA OF SEA MONSTERS IS GROWING RIGHT NOW!"



I SEE WE'VE A LONG FIGHT BEFORE US...

THANKS, BUT I REALLY HAVE TO BE GOING...

BUY YOU A DRINK?

TODAY'S THE BIG DAY AT THE MATERNITY WARD! SEE YA!



THOUGHTS PREYED ON THE TORTURED SKULL OF HOWARD DANIELS EVEN IN THIS MOMENT OF JOYOUS ANTICIPATION: WHAT OF THE WATER THAT PEOPLE DRANK?

YES, NURSE?

ER--AH-- YOUR WIFE HAS JUST DELIVERED SAFELY. YOU MAY VIEW "HIM" NOW...



HOWARD DANIELS STARED AT THE FORM IN THE NURSE'S CRADLING ARMS-- THE SCALY SKIN! THE POINTED, FIN-LIKE EARS-- THE HINT OF GILLS ON THE NECK!-- WEBBED FINGERS!-- AND KNEW HIS SON WOULD PROBABLY BECOME A GREAT MARINE BIOLOGIST!

OH N-NO! (CHOKE!!)



THE END

Nazi DEATH RATTLE

*"And speckled Vanity
will sicken soon and die."
...MILTON*

GERMAN ARMY BOOT CAMP: 1943...WHERE THE BOOTS GET KICKED OFF AND THE FEET ARE GIVEN A REST FOR A FEW DAYS DESPITE THE ATROCITY OF WAR THAT HERR FÜHRER HAS CREATED FOR THEM...REST FOR **SOME...** BUT FOR THE ALLIES AND THE UNDERGROUND THE WAR GOES ON...



MEIN FELDWEBEL FREDRICH--ARE YOU NOT COMING TO THE OFFICER'S MESS FOR...

MEIN GOTT... WAS IST LOS?...

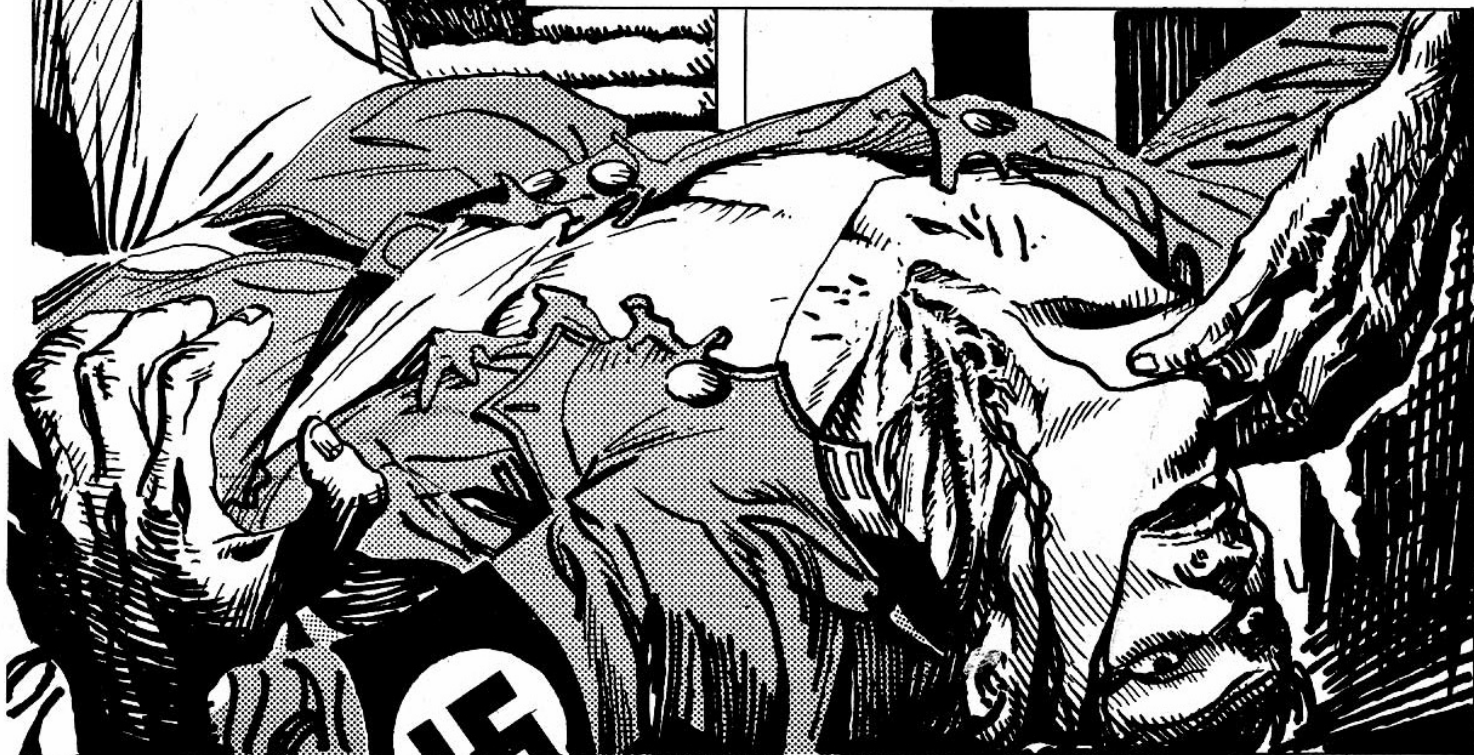


HAUPTMAN...HERR HAUPTMAN...OUTSIDE QUICKLY...IN THE SUPPLY SHED! A SERGEANT HAS BEEN MURDERED...HORRIBLY!



ANOTHER?... THIS IS THE **THIRD** OFFICER IN THIS WEEK! ALERT HERR OBERST **IMMEDIATELY...** THIS MURDER WILL STOP IF WE HAVE TO BRING IN THE S.S. TO FIND THE CULPRITS...

AND SO STARTS OUR TALE...OF RUTHLESS VENGEANCE BEFITTING THE NAZI REIGN OF TERROR...OF SMOULDERING FASCIST CORPSES GUTTED MERCILESSLY OF THEIR BLOOD...HERE STARTS OUR TALE--AS IT ENDS...IN A **DEATH!**





A **WHAT...?**
A VAMPIRE? DON'T
BE **RIDICULOUS** HERR
HAUPTMANN!

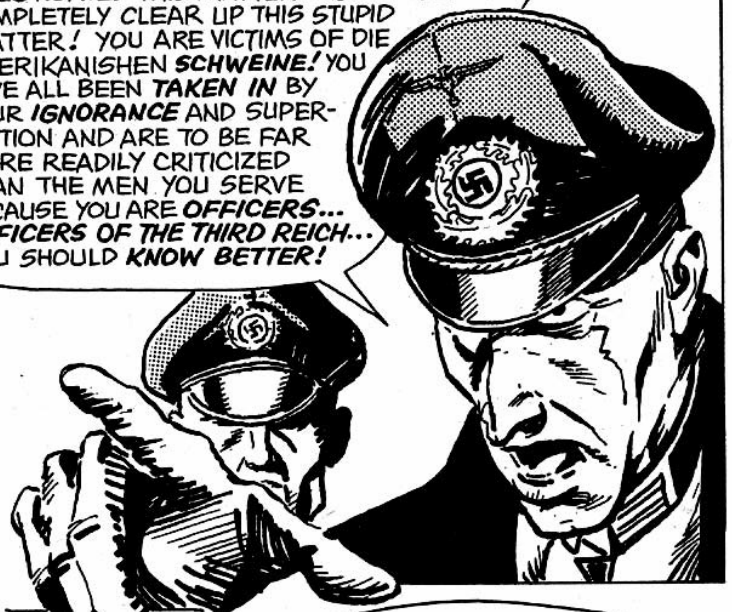
THEY ARE NOTHING
MORE THAN A **MYTH...**
DO YOU HONESTLY
SUPPOSE FOR EVEN **ONE**
MINUTE THAT THERE IS
REALLY SUCH A THING?
HAH, HAH, HERR FÜHRER
WOULD LAUGH IN
YOUR FACE!

IT IS ONLY A VILE
ANIMAL...OR A STUPID
PLOT TO LOWER THE
MORALE OF OUR MEN BY
DIE AMERIKANISHER SCHWEINE
...I HAVE **ALREADY** CALLED
IN A PROMINENT MEMBER
OF THE S.S. TO SEE TO
THIS MATTER...



NOW UNDERSTAND THIS! HERR
FÜHRER IS GREATLY **ANNOYED** WITH
THIS **STUPIDITY!** THIS **WITLESS**
BARING OF YOUR EMOTIONS WILL
NOT BE TOLERATED
ANY LONGER!

REICHFÜHRER **HIMMLER** HAS **PERSONALLY**
INVESTIGATED THIS MATTER! HIS CONCLUSIONS
COMPLETELY CLEAR UP THIS STUPID
MATTER! YOU ARE VICTIMS OF DIE
AMERIKANISHER **SCHWEINE!** YOU
HAVE ALL BEEN **TAKEN IN** BY
YOUR **IGNORANCE** AND SUPER-
STITION AND ARE TO BE FAR
MORE READILY CRITICIZED
THAN THE MEN YOU SERVE
BECAUSE YOU ARE **OFFICERS...**
OFFICERS OF THE THIRD REICH...
YOU SHOULD **KNOW BETTER!**



THIS **SO-CALLED VAMPIRE...**
IS OBVIOUSLY NOTHING MORE THAN
A CHILDISH AMERICAN PLOT DESIGNED
TO UNDERMINE YOUR **MORALE**
AND CAUSE CHAOS!


BUT NO ONE
HAS SEEN
ONE, SIR, NO
ONE... I'VE
TRIED
MYSELF!

NOW I WANT
TO SEE EVERY
SINGLE MAN WHO
HAS WITNESSED A
DEATH AND...



NO ONE? HOW IS THIS
POSSIBLE... IS THIS AN ARMY
CAMP OR A KINDERGARTEN... **HAH?**
THEN IT IS OBVIOUSLY AN **INSIDE**
TRICK-- WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY KNOW
WHEN AND WHERE TO STRIKE. I WANT
EVERY NON-GERMAN IN THIS CAMP
BROUGHT TO ME... WE SHALL SEE
JUST **HOW LONG** IT TAKES ME TO
CLEAR UP THIS **NONSENSE!**





MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED FOR AN S.S. OFFICER! HIS PRESENCE WILL REFLECT ON MY **INCOMPETENCE** IN THIS MATTER! HE SAID IT WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF HITLER HIMSELF... THEY MUST WONDER WHAT KIND OF FOOL I AM...REPORTING **VAMPIRES!**

ALTHOUGH WHAT **GOOD** CAN COME FROM THE S.S. OFFICER'S PRESENT TACTICS I DON'T KNOW...MUST BE PROCEDURE...WE SHALL SEE!

AUSTRIA... THEN YOU ARE **NOT A GERMAN!** HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET YOUR COMMISSION...THE RANK OF **OBERST** IS NOT EASILY COME BY!

I WONDERED ABOUT YOUR **NAME** BECAUSE IT DOES NOT EXIST IN THE GERMAN LANGUAGE...IN GERMANY WE ALWAYS USE THE PREFACE 'S' WITH A 'CH' AFTER IT. YOUR NAME DOES NOT EXIST...HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS?

TELL ME CAPTAIN... I DON'T MEAN TO BE **RUDE**...AFTER YOU KINDLY INVITE ME TO SHARE DINNER WITH YOU...BUT TELL ME WHY YOU HAVE SUCH AN **ODD NAME?**

ODD...I...I...DON'T UNDERSTAND...WHY IS IT **ODD?** I WAS BORN HANS SNOOKLER 37 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH IN LEOBIN, AUSTRIA...I DON'T SEE...

BUT...I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'VE NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED LIKE THIS BEFORE...!

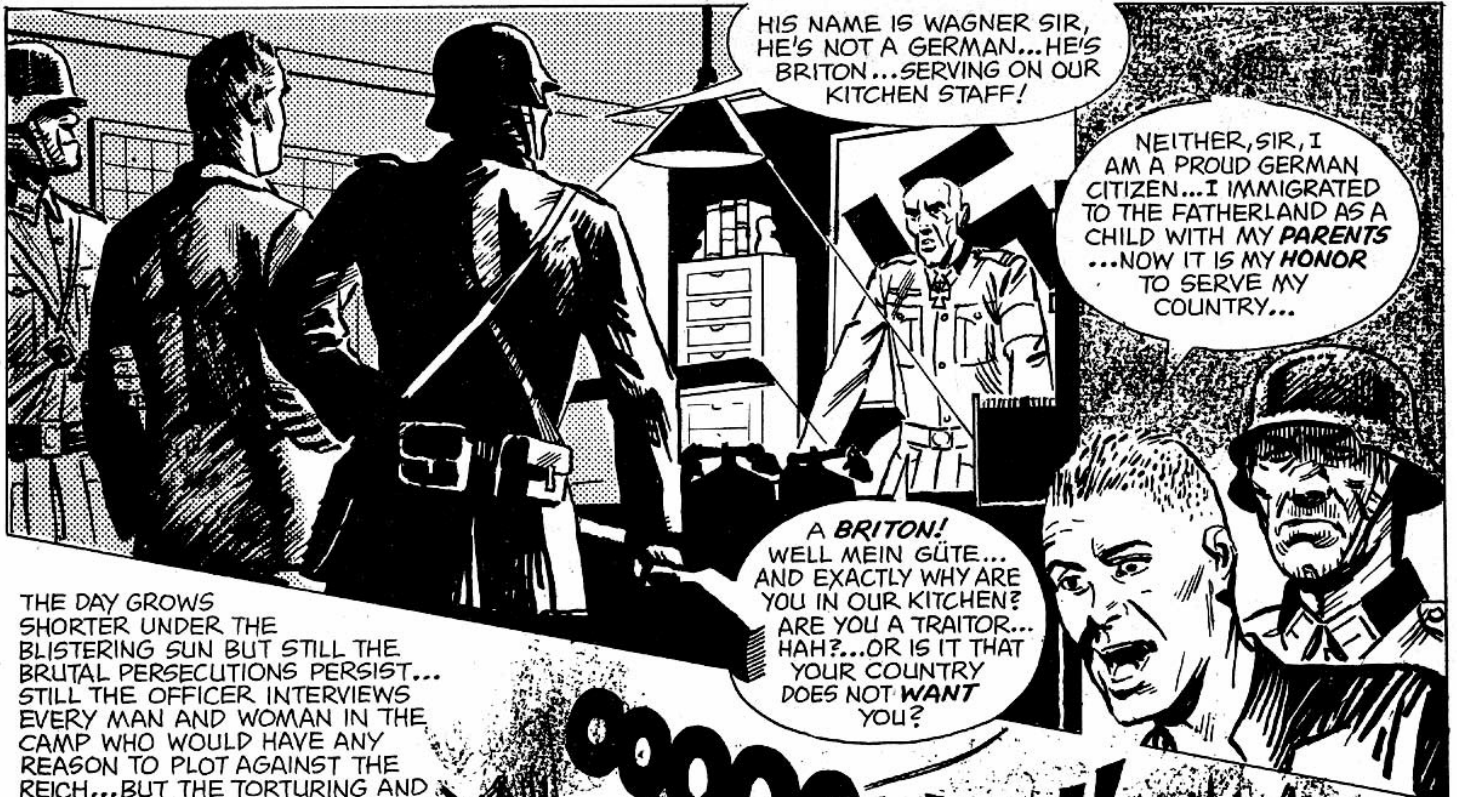
YOU ARE BEING QUESTIONED LIKE THIS **NOW...** ANSWER...

BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT MY NAME. I HAVE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT!

A GERMAN OFFICER THAT DOES NOT **THINK?** YOU ARE FOR THE PRESENT **REMOVED** FROM YOUR POSITION...AND I SHALL TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THE SITUATION HERE UNTIL MATTERS ARE CLEARED UP... DO YOU UNDERSTAND, HERR SNOOKLER?



IT IS NOT EASY FOR OBERST HANS SNOOKLER TO UNDERSTAND...HE HAS SERVED HIS COUNTRY...HIS FÜHRER HAS, ON PAST OCCASIONS, ACCORDED HIM SEVERAL HONORS...AND NOW TO BE SO QUICKLY DASHED OUT OF POWER BY A RANK AND FILE OF THE ELITE S.S. IS... **UNIMAGINABLE!**



HIS NAME IS WAGNER SIR,
HE'S NOT A GERMAN...HE'S
BRITON...SERVING ON OUR
KITCHEN STAFF!

NEITHER, SIR, I
AM A PROUD GERMAN
CITIZEN...I IMMIGRATED
TO THE FATHERLAND AS A
CHILD WITH MY PARENTS
...NOW IT IS MY HONOR
TO SERVE MY
COUNTRY...

A BRITON!
WELL MEIN GÜTE...
AND EXACTLY WHY ARE
YOU IN OUR KITCHEN?
ARE YOU A TRAITOR...
HAH?...OR IS IT THAT
YOUR COUNTRY
DOES NOT WANT
YOU?

THE DAY GROWS
SHORTER UNDER THE
BLISTERING SUN BUT STILL THE
BRUTAL PERSECUTIONS PERSIST...
STILL THE OFFICER INTERVIEWS
EVERY MAN AND WOMAN IN THE
CAMP WHO WOULD HAVE ANY
REASON TO PLOT AGAINST THE
REICH...BUT THE TORTURING AND
SENSELESS MAIMING BEAR NO
FRUIT...AND NO CULPRIT
IS FOUND...



AAH!



ANOTHER?
...I THOUGHT
MY VERY PRESENCE
WOULD FRIGHTEN
OFF ANY FURTHER
STUPID ATTACKS...
MMM...WE SHALL
SEE THEN...

SIR, SIR, THERE
HAS BEEN
ANOTHER DEATH,
A LIEUTENANT...
AID TO HERR
OBERST.

MEIN GOTT!!





SIR, THIS MAN WAS FOUND RUNNING AWAY DURING THE COMMOTION... HE'S A DOG TRAINER...

A DOG TRAINER... SO... IT ALL FITS IN PLACE NOW... BRING HIM TO MY QUARTERS IMMEDIATELY AND WE SHALL FIND OUT SOME MORE ABOUT OUR MYSTERIOUS VAMPIRE!

OBERST SNOOKLER... GET OUT OF THAT RIDICULOUS OUTFIT AND COME ALSO... I WANT YOU PRESENT FOR QUESTIONING...

...AND LATER THAT NIGHT...

NOW! BEFORE I BEAT YOU WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIFE MAN... **TALK!**

No! No!



ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT... NO MORE PLEASE... NO MORE... I'LL TALK... I'LL TALK...

IT WAS... AS YOU SUSPECTED. IT WAS **SNOOKLER**... HE FORCED ME TO HAVE THE DOGS ATTACK... ON HIS ORDER! HE KILLED... HE BRUTALLY MURDERED HIS **OWN** MEN... HE'S A **TRAITOR**... WORKING FOR THE ALLIES...

SNOOKLER... I KNEW IT... I KNEW IT... WHY... IN THE NAME OF THE HONOR OF THE **FATHERLAND**... WHY?





BUT NO...
IT ISN'T TRUE...
I'M NO SPY!

YOU ARE...
AND I KNOW WHY...
YOU'RE NO GERMAN...
YOU'RE AN
AUSTRIAN...



YOU
RESENTED
YOUR FELLOW
COUNTRYMEN
BEGGING TO BE
UNITED WITH
GERMANY...

BEGGING?...
NO, NO...HOW IS
THAT POSSIBLE...HERR
FÜHRER **HIMSELF**
WAS AN AUSTRIAN...

YOU'RE
WRONG...
ALL **WRONG**...
GOT TO GET
AWAY...

WAS IT NOT A TWINGE OF CONSCIENCE THAT GAVE OBERST SNOOKLER AWAY...WAS IT SOMETHING **UNSEEN** INSIDE...THAT MADE HIM **RUN**...BOLT LIKE A TERRIFIED CAT AFTER SPILLING THE MILK...OR WAS IT...SOMETHING ELSE...



GET HIM!
GUN THE
TRAITOR
DOWN...



NOW...
WHAT'S THE
REAL STORY...
THE
TRUTH?

THE TRUTH? BUT I
JUST TOLD YOU...THE
MAN YOU JUST SHOT...
OBERST SNOOKLER...
HE FORCED ME...

NONSENSE... DON'T TRY AND GIVE ME
THAT GARBAGE, YOU MISERABLE PIG...
SNOOKLER WAS SHOT FOR ANOTHER REASON
ALTOGETHER...HE WAS **GUILTY**, BUT NOT
OF **THIS** CRIME...BUT YOU ARE...NOW
UNLESS YOU WANT THE **SAME TORTURE**
AS BEFORE YOU'D BEST TALK...

THIS TIME IT
WILL NOT BE AS
PLEASANT...NOR
AS **SHORT**!



IT WAS A PLOT...AN...
AN UNDERGROUND PLOT
TO GET RID OF SNOOKLER
...I WILL TAKE YOU TO
OUR HEADQUARTERS...
IT'S IN THE VILLAGE
NEARBY...

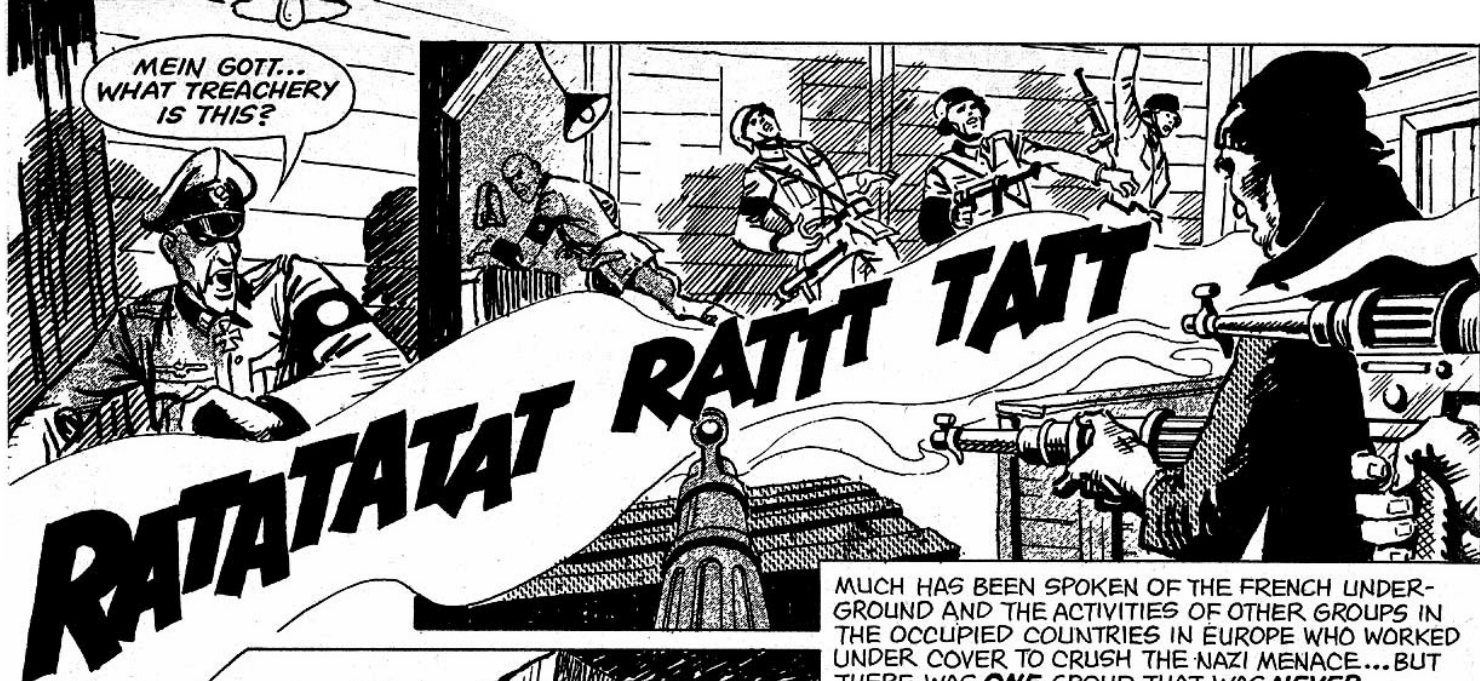
IT'S IN THERE...
BUT YOU'VE GOT
TO PROMISE...PROMISE
YOU WON'T KILL ME...
YOU'VE GOT TO
PROMISE...

AN OFFICER OF
THE S.S. PROMISES
NOTHING...BUT I'LL
NOT HARM YOU...

ALL RIGHT...BUT ENTER **QUIETLY**
...ELSE THEY WILL **HEAR YOU**...
THERE'S AN **ESCAPE ROUTE**
BELOW...IN THE BASEMENT
...CONNECTED BY A TUNNEL
TO THE **CAMP**...

IF THIS IS A
TRAP SIE VERRATER
...I'LL HAVE YOUR
THROAT RIPPED OUT
LIKE YOUR VICTIMS BY
YOUR OWN **DOGS!**

QUIETLY...TELL
YOUR MEN TO BE **QUIET**
...THE SLIGHTEST SOUND
ON THESE FLOORBOARDS
AND THEY'LL HEAR IT...
BE **WARNED** AND OFF
IN **SECONDS!**



MEIN GOTT...
WHAT TREACHERY
IS THIS?

MUCH HAS BEEN SPOKEN OF THE FRENCH UNDER-
GROUND AND THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER GROUPS IN
THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES IN EUROPE WHO WORKED
UNDER COVER TO CRUSH THE NAZI MENACE... BUT
THERE WAS **ONE** GROUP THAT WAS **NEVER**
SPOKEN OF...



...THE GROUP FROM
OCCUPIED RUMANIA... COUNTRY
FOLK THEY ARE... SIMPLE PEASANTS
... GOATHERDERS FROM THE
RUMANIAN MOUNTAIN RANGE KNOWN
AS THE **TRANSYLVANIAN ALPS**... DO-
ING THEIR "THING" FOR THE ALLIED
COMMAND ON SPECIAL MISSION...
FOR THEIRS WAS A VERY SPECIAL
TALENT...




MY MEN... ALL
DEAD... WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO...
WHAT...

WELL I COULD LET MY
TERRIBLE "VAMPIRE DOGS"
TEAR YOU APART...
HAH, HAH, HAH...

BUT WE
HAVE SOMETHING
ELSE IN
STORE FOR YOU
FASCIST WARMONGER...
...SOMETHING MUCH
MUCH BETTER...

...LOOK TOWARD
THAT OPENING IN
THE WALL... THE
TUNNEL TO THE
ARMY GROUNDS...





NO, NO...IT
ISN'T POSSIBLE...
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE
...HOW...

IT ISN'T POSSIBLE...
YOU'RE DEAD...DEAD...
I SAW YOU SHOT...FILLED
WITH A HUNDRED
BULLETS... YOU'RE
DEAD!

YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT
ONE THING GRUND HUND...
I AM **NOT** A NAZI...NOT A
GERMAN OR AUSTRIAN
EITHER...BUT I'VE A FAMILY
HERITAGE FAR PROUDER
THAN **YOURS**...OF ANY
HUMAN RACE...

DEAD...NO, NO...
WARLORD...THE
VAMPIRE DOES NOT
DIE OF A FEW MERE
FLESH WOUNDS!

AND THE HEAD OF THE PROUDEST OF MEN IS BOWED...
FOR HE CANNOT FAIL TO BOW TO A HERITAGE MORE
HONORABLE THAN HIS OWN FALSE PERVERTED EGO...
AND SPECKLED VANITY, WILL SICKEN SOON AND DIE!

SERG
MOREN

Within the TORTURE CHAMBER!

--- AND BY ORDER OF THE INQUISITOR GENERAL, I--- JUDGE HERNANDEZ FUERTE--- ALLOW THE EXECUTION OF HERETIC ELENA CALCIN TO COMMENCE!

FURIOUSLY, DESPERATELY THE GIRL PULLS AT HER BONDS, HER MOIST, BULGING EYES **HYPNOTIZED** BY THE DULL PLATE OF **SHARP IRON SPIKES** INCHING HUNGRILY **CLOSER! SOUNDLESS SCREAMS** SHATTER **UNHEARD** ABOUT THE GRIMY STONE WALLS OF THE **CHAMBER OF HORRORS!** SHE **HEARS** THE SEEMINGLY DETACHED **DRONE** OF THE JUDGE WHO **PRO- NOUNCES** SENTENCE UPON HER, AND THE WORDS MEAN **NOTHING!** FOR THIS IS **SPAIN OF THE 16TH CENTURY!** THIS IS THE **AGE OF THE INQUISITION!**

SHE DIES! SHE DIES! HEE-HEEE!

HAVE YOU NOT **NOTICED?** HER TONGUE WAS **REMOVED** SOME DAYS AGO BY OUR **SURGEONS!** THE **DEVIL KNOWS WHY!** AND **DON'T BE MORBID,** JUDGE GARCIA! WE ARE **OFFICERS OF THE LAW!** WE ARE NOT HERE TO **LEER** AT THE **PAIN OF OTHERS!**

AHH--- THE INVENTIVENESS OF OUR **LEADERS** NEVER CEASES TO **AMUSE ME,** JUDGE FUERTE! BUT THE **FLAVOR** OF THIS TORTURE IS **SOMEHOW SPOILED!** OUR **LOVELY VICTIM** OPENS HER MOUTH, YET **NO SCREAMS** ISSUE **FORTH!**

DIABLO!

JUDGE FUERTE IS REPELLED BY THE GLEEFUL, INSANE LAUGHTER OF GARCIA AND THE DROOLING LIPS OF THE EXECUTIONER! HE SHUTS HIS EYES! ATTEMPTS CONCENTRATION ON HIS LOYALTY TO HIS NATIVE COUNTRY! BUT THE LAUGHTER DROWNS THIS OUT, AND FUERTE KNOWS HE IS A PUPPET OF THE INQUISITION, HIS LOYALTY AND DEDICATION MISUSED!

WE HAVE ADDED ANOTHER CORPSE TO THE PILE OF HUNDREDS! AND SO MY DUTY IS DONE FOR THIS NIGHT!

OF COURSE, MY FRIEND! SURELY YOU ARE NOT OFFENDED BY A LITTLE HEALTHY BLOOD AND GORE! HAA! HAA!

HEE! HEE!

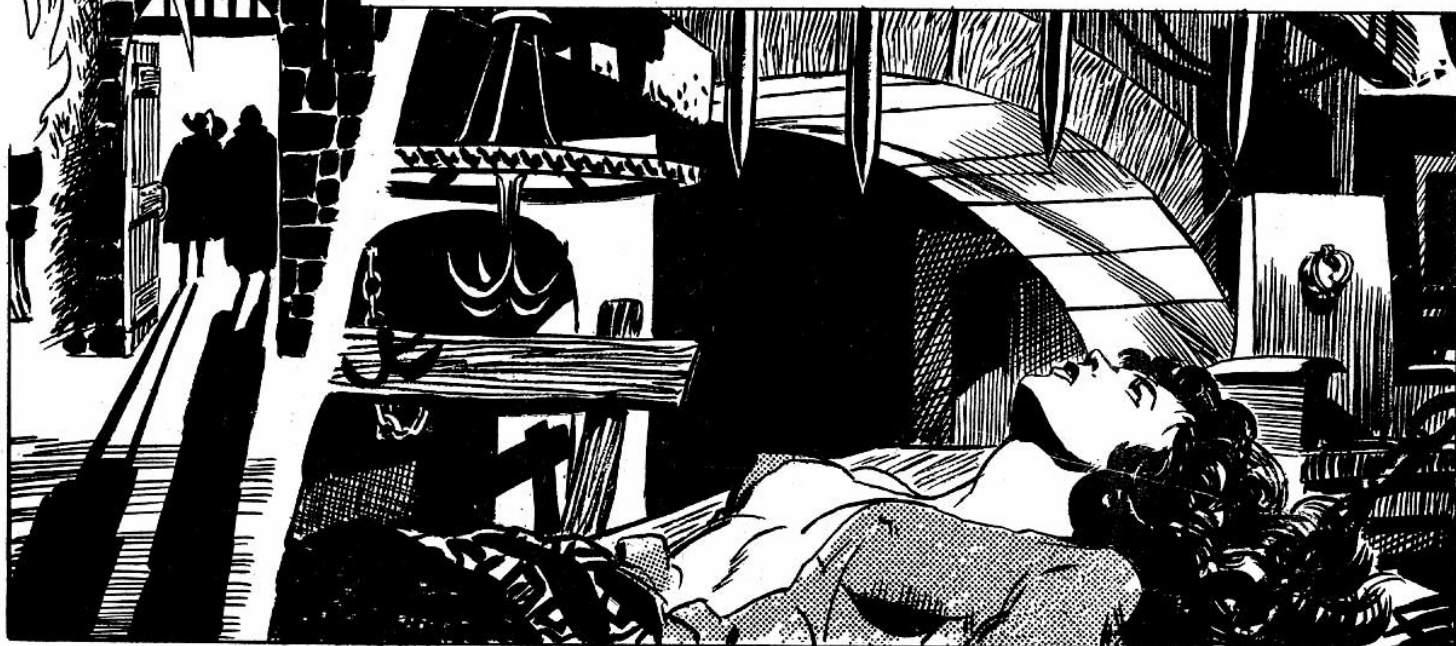
I'LL LEAVE HER BODY TO ROT TILL THE MORROW! PERHAPS THE NIGHT RATS MAY HAVE A FEAST!

FUERTE MIGHT BECOME AN IMPORTANT MAN IN THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING ABOVE THESE CHAMBERS IF NOT FOR HIS WEAK STOMACH!

YOU MAY LEAVE THE ENTRANCE TO THIS DUNGEON UNGUARDED AGAIN, EXECUTIONER!

FOR, WHO WOULD DARE TO INTRUDE --- HERE?

FOR HOURS BEYOND THE INQUISITOR'S DEPARTURE, EERIE, WHISPERING TORCH-LIGHT ILLUMINATES ONLY COLD, SOMBER STONE WALLS OF CRACKED AND CHIPPING MASONRY, OCCASIONALLY LIGHTING PATCHES OF FUR AS OVERSIZED RATS SCAMPER ALMOST NOISELESSLY IN DARK, SPECTRAL CORNERS! OUTSIDE, IN A WORLD ONLY QUESTIONABLY SANE, NIGHTFALL CONQUERS AND CURTAINS THE SKY! WITHIN, A YOUNG MANGLED BODY LIES CARELESSLY IN AN INSTRUMENT WHICH IS THE PRODUCT OF DISEASED MINDS!



THEN...

CRREEAKKK

CAUTIOUSLY, FEAR-HUNCHED, MOVES THE YOUNG NOBLE-MAN DOWN THE MUSTY, FILTH-COVERED STEPS TO THE INQUISITORY CHAMBER!

ELENA! I KNOW YOU CANNOT HEAR ME, YET I MUST SPEAK ONE MORE TIME WITH YOU!

GUILT SHAKES THE LOW VOICE OF DON ALEXANDRE GUISANTE, ONE BORN OF NOBLE BLOOD!

PERHAPS MY HEART WILL CALM IF I CONFESS! IF MERELY TO YOUR UNMOVING CORPSE! DO YOU REMEMBER MY OFFER OF MARRIAGE, ELENA? AND HOW YOU REJECTED ME?

FOR MONTHS AFTER, I FOUND I STILL LONGED FOR YOU! CRAVED YOUR UNTOUCHABLE BEAUTY! FINALLY, THE LONGING TRANSFORMED TO... CONTEMPT--HATRED!

USING MY FAMILY'S WEALTH, I BRIBED SEVERAL "WITNESSES" WHO TESTIFIED IN COURT TO SEEING YOU PERFORM THE SECRET RITES OF SATAN! I KNEW EVEN THE SUSPICION OF SUCH HERESAY WAS PUNISHABLE BY THE INQUISITION'S SPECIAL BRAND OF DEATH!

YOU NEVER SUSPECTED THAT I WAS BEHIND YOUR PLIGHT! YET, IN CASE YOU HAD, I PAID WELL SO THAT YOUR TONGUE MIGHT BE STILLED! AND CUT OUT!

I REGRET MY MURDEROUS ACTS, ELENA! I AM TRULY SORRY YOU SUFFERED SUCH HORROR! I HAVE MADE MY WAY INTO THIS GROTESQUE, VILE-SMELLING TOMB TO TELL YOUR SPIRIT THIS!

PERHAPS I MAY SLEEP NOW, WITHOUT THE NIGHTMARES OF CONSCIENCE WHICH PLAGUE ME THESE SUCCEEDING NIGHTS!

POR DIOS! WHO ARE YOU?

I AM JUDGE FUERTE! HE WHO PRONOUNCED THE SENTENCE OF DEATH UPON THAT POOR GIRL! I RETURNED TO REMOVE HER MUTILATED BODY FROM THAT MONSTROSITY! ONLY TO HEAR A CONFESSION MOTIVATED BY SLUMBERLESS NIGHTS! NOT FROM ANY DECENCY OF CHARACTER! YOU HYPOCRITE! YOU HUMAN SLIME!

IN ADDITION TO THE DAILY SHAME I FEEL BENEATH THE UNHOLY FOOT OF THE INQUISITION, NOW I AM AN ACCESSORY TO MURDER! MY HANDS ARE STAINED WITH INNOCENT BLOOD!

ENOUGH! I FIND YOU GUILTY! AND SHALL CARRY OUT YOUR SENTENCE MYSELF!

STAY BACK! YOU FOOL! I HAVE STUDIED FENCING FROM THE MASTERS!

VIOLENT, UNLEASHED EMOTIONS ERUPT INTO FURIOUS SWORDPLAY IN THE GREAT CHAMBER! THE CLASH AND RINGING OF STEEL UPON STEEL RAISES A STEADY, FEVERISH DIN!

FRIGHTENED DUNGEON RATS WHIMPER AND HURRY FOR SHELTER!

**MURDERING COWARD...
EEE-YAAAAH!!**

POR DIOS! WHAT HAS MY FOOLISH HAND DONE? THE PENALTY FOR KILLING AN INQUISITOR JUDGE IS... DEATH BY TORTURE! N-NO! NO! I MUST GET OUT OF HERE!



**I MUST
GET OUT!**

**A LAST FAINT CLANGOR OF SWORDS
ECHOES AND FADES, REPLACED BY THE
SHARP STACCATO OF RUNNING FEET!
DON ALEXANDRE GUISANTE SCRAMBLES
PANIC-STRICKEN UP THE STAIRCASE---
AND ABRUPTLY PARALYZES!**

**SLOWLY, ALMOST REVERENTLY, THE TREMBLING
NOBLEMAN 'CREEPS BACK INTO THE GHOSTLY
INTERIOR OF THE UNCLEAN CHAMBER!**




**THE SWORD! I LEFT IT
BEHIND! CAN'T LET IT BE
FOUND! MY FAMILY CREST
IS INSCRIBED UPON IT!**



**YES! I MUST RETRIEVE MY SWORD!
MY--- MY SWORD! I-- I LEFT
IT---**



**-- IN THE
JUDGE'S
BODY!**



**I-- I'LL RETRIEVE IT QUICKLY, THEN
LEAVE THIS LAIR OF THE DAMNED
FOR ALL TIME! UGGH! IT IS IN
DEEP! THIS LIGHT TRICKS MY
VISION! I COULD SWEAR THE
JUDGE'S EYES STARE AT ME!**



**THEY DO!
Noooo!!!**

ONLY THE **SUDDEN FLASH OF REASON** PREVENTS THE NOBLE-MAN FROM **FLEEING!** THAT, AND HIS **STILL IMPALING SWORD!**

MUST KEEP HOLD OF MY **SENSES!** EL ESTA MUERTO... HE IS **DEAD!** FUERTE CAN NOT HARM ME! I ONLY **IMAGINE** HIS **ACCUSING STARE!** HIS EYES ARE **LIFELESS! LIFELESS!**

I'VE GOT TO **PULL HARDER!** THE SWORD HAS TO COME FREE! DEAR GOD... IT HAS TO!!

HIS STOMACH **REVOLTED** BY THE **OBSCENE RITUAL**, GUISANTE **CLENCHES HIS TEETH** TO KEEP FROM **RETCHING!** HE **TUGS** WITH UNCHECKED **FORCE!** THEN, HE HEARS A SHORT, **SICKENING SOUND** AND THE BLADE **SLIDES FREE!**

TH-- THE... **BLOOD!** I CAN'T BEAR THE SIGHT OF... **AAAGGH!**

A **MOMENT!** I NEED ONLY A **MOMENT TO CALM DOWN!** **QUELL MY POUNDING HEART!** LET MY **BREATHING RETURN TO NORMAL!** AND STRIKE THAT **GRISLY SIGHT** FROM MY **BRAIN!**

THEN I'LL **FETCH** THAT **ACCURSED BLADE!** AND **DIG A GRAVE** FOR IT SOMEWHERE **OUTSIDE** THE CONFINES OF MY **FAMILY'S CASTLE!** I AM **SORRY NOW** I EVER **CAME TO THIS---**

I FEEL THEM AGAIN! **BORING INTO MY BACK!** THOSE EYES... **THE JUDGE'S EYES!**

CAN FEAR DRIVE ONE TO THE DEPTHS OF SHOCK? YES! CAN THE SHOCK OF A SMALL CRIMSON POOL... THE REMAINS OF A VANISHING CORPSE... DRIVE ONE TO THE PITS OF MADNESS? YES!

NO! HE IS DEAD!
MUERTE... DEAD!

YOUUU!!
AAIIIEEEEEEE!!

MORNING IS A MEANINGLESS ELEMENT TO THE CONTINUALLY DARK, SHADOWY DUNGEON OF DEATH! IT INDICATES ONLY ANOTHER DAILY VISIT FROM ITS MORE INHUMAN MASTERS!

ODD THAT WE HAVE NOT YET ENCOUNTERED JUDGE FUERTE! HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ENTERTAINING A GUEST DOWN HERE LAST NIGHT, THOUGH! WHICH WOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE SCREAMING YOU HEARD! HA! HAA! I THOUGHT I GLIMPSED A TOUCH OF SADISM IN THE MAN!

IT IS TRUE, JUDGE GARCIA! AT MIDNIGHT, THE MOST EXTREME WAILING CAME FROM THIS CHAMBER! I DID NOT SUMMON THE COURAGE TO ENTER TILL NOW!

WE'LL SOON LEARN THE CAUSE OF SUCH HOWLING! BE NOT AFRAID, EXECUTIONER! NO MAN OR GHOST DARES CHALLENGE THE OFFICERS OF THE INQUISITION!

THE HERETIC GIRL'S BODY IS EXACTLY WHERE WE LEFT IT, AND I SEE NO SIGNS OF...!

MY JUDGE!
OVER HERE...
IN THIS CORNER!

THE WILD-EYED, TIGHT-MOUTHED MANIAC STARES UNCOMPREHENDINGLY AT THE TWO INQUISITORS! EVEN THE GLOATING GARCIA IS UNNERVED BY THIS SPECIMEN OF TOTAL INSANITY!

LOOK AT THE MADNESS IN HIS EYES! I'VE NEVER SEEN...!

YOU! SPEAK! GIVE ME YOUR IDENTITY AND WHAT YOU ARE DOING HERE!

EXCELLENCY! SOME PAPER IS TACKED ONTO THAT RACK! IT LOOKS LIKE AN OFFICIAL ORDER OF EXECUTION!

AH-HAAA! BRING IT TO ME AT ONCE!

IT READS--- "THE LUNATIC BEFORE YOU IS A MURDERER! TWICE-OVER! HIS IS THE LOWEST OF HEINOUS CRIMES! FOR NOT ONLY HAS HE MURDERED, BUT IN ADDITION PERJURED HIMSELF IN THE COURTS OF SPAIN! GIVEN FALSE TESTIMONY TO THE INQUISITION!"

"THE ULTIMATE SENTENCE IS DEMANDED! LET SUCH A ONE SUFFER DEATH BY TORTURE!" SIGNED, JUDGE HERNANDEZ FUERTE! HO! I WAS NOT MISTAKEN! THE HONORABLE JUDGE SHARES OUR VIEWS OF JUSTICE! UNCHAIN THE PRISONER!

WHAT WEIRD, BIZARRE THOUGHTS OCCUPY THE MIND OF A MADMAN? DOES HE ENDLESSLY RECALL THE SHOCKING, UNSPEAKABLE EXPERIENCE WHICH CAUSED HIS STATE? DOES HE EVEN FEEL THE SENSATION OF BEING ROUGHLY, BRUTALLY DRAGGED TO HIS FINAL DESTINATION? ONE OF PAIN AND HORROR?

I'LL USE MY FAVORITE INSTRUMENT ON HIM! HE SHALL ENDURE HOURS OF UNENDURABLE AGONY UNDER MY MANIPULATION! HE'LL BE MY MASTERPIECE OF PAIN! BUT, WHY IS HE SO SILENT? WHY DOESN'T HE SHRIEK, OR BABBLE, OR BEG FOR HIS LIFE?

BECAUSE OF A VERY STRANGE THING I JUST DISCOVERED, EXECUTIONER!

HIS TONGUE HAS BEEN CUT OUT!

HAA! HAA! HAA! HAAA!

The End